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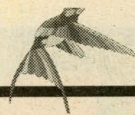
DECEMBER
2000

FAMILY

and friends

**Ms. Claus & her
helpers**





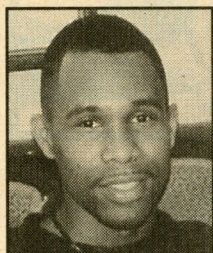
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GAY apparel ...

*Seasons
Greetings*
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INSIDE FAMILY & FRIENDS

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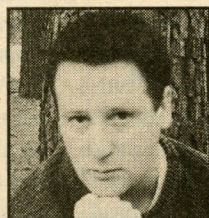
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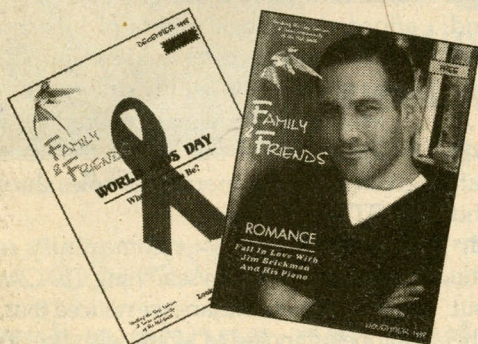
SANTA'S HELPERS

Children will have Christmas thanks to these caring folks

Pictured on the cover are Shelia Tankersley and (inset) Aphrodite members Brenda, Jan, Sue, Terrie, Carol, Kay and Alma

See page 6

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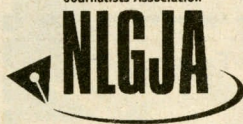
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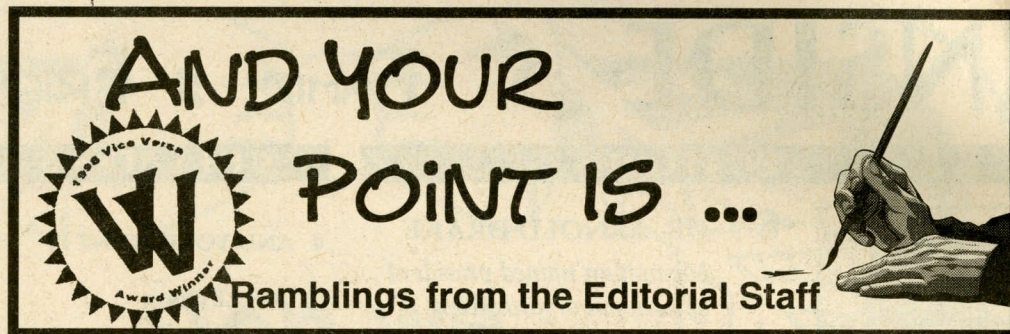
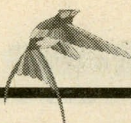
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Normally we use the editorial "we" here, however, because of the nature of the subject this month, we will make an exception.

Let me begin by saying my partner and I are now more legally-bound to one another than most husbands and wives, thanks to a recent trip to the hospital.

One Tuesday, my partner began to experience chest pains. A quick call to her doctor sent us scurrying off to St. Francis' chest pain emergency center. (Let me add here that it in no way, shape or form resembled the emergency room on "ER," even on a slow day.)

As they were hooking her up to an EKG machine and starting an IV, the nurse turned to me and asked, "Are you a family member?"

I unfortunately had to say, "No." But I quickly added, "Before we left the house, she wrote a note giving me permission to make medical decisions for her. She signed it, too."

"Unfortunately, that is not legal, nor binding," the nurse said with all the authority of an attorney. "It will be her family's decision."

Considering she was orphaned in her early 20s, the only immediate family she has is an estranged younger brother, whose whereabouts are unknown to us. It scared me to think, one, I probably could not find her brother if I needed to, and two, that her wish for me to handle the details of her life would not be carried out.

Although the doctors found nothing immediately wrong with her that night (after an EKG, complete blood work-up and chest x-ray), they scheduled her for a cardiac stress test the following day. We (she and I) suppose there is nothing wrong, but we can't be sure because the results of the test are allegedly on their way to her doctor, via the United States Postal Service.

What we did experience on this trip to the hospital was another type of emergency, one of legality.

A few days later, actually, as soon as we could get in to see our attorney, we both signed and filed two types of documents: a durable power of attorney and a medical power of attorney. The signing and filing of these documents has legally bound us to one another, even more so than saying, "I do."

The durable power of attorney gives each of us the right to make any and all financial decisions for one another (kind of like she being me and me being her). The medical power of attorney gives each of us the right to be told of the other's medical condition, as well as the right to make medical decisions for each other should one of us become physically or mentally incapable of making those decisions for ourselves.

While our legally-married, heterosexual counterparts are afforded the rights provided by the medical power of attorney, they are not automatically afforded the rights given by the durable power of attorney. For example, if a husband and/or wife has a separate bank account in their name only, their spouse cannot automatically touch the account just because they are legally married.

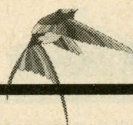
But thanks to some legal paperwork, she and I now have that right, even if we aren't afforded the legal rights of husbands and wives. We also have made an appointment to have our wills legally drawn up.

More recently, we discovered yet another example of how our lack of the same rights given to legally-married couples shrouds the GLBT community.

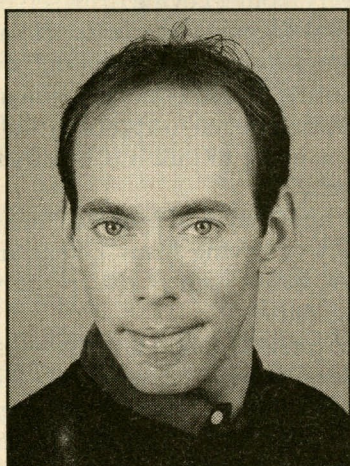
A member of our community recently passed away. Upon searching *The Commercial Appeal* for her obituary, we noticed that instead of it being included along with the other listings, which are run free of charge, her obituary was listed under the heading "Paid."

For those of you who have never had to

See Your Point Is, page 46



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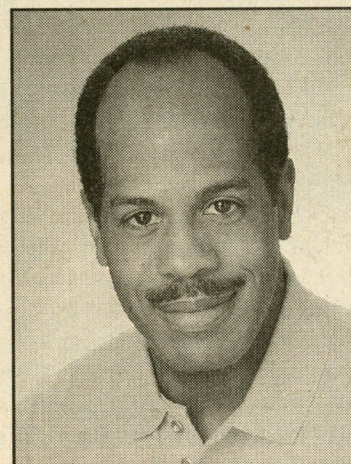
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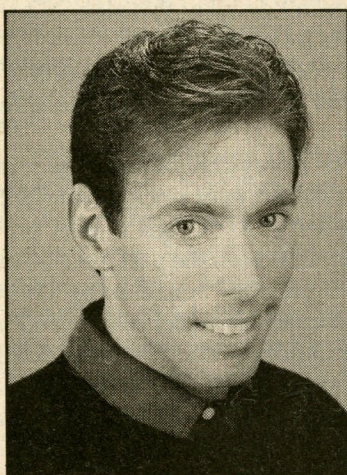
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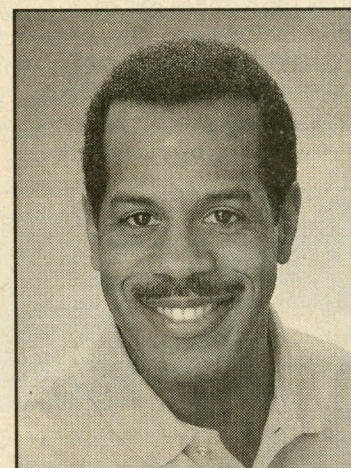
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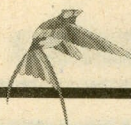
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Ms. Claus & her helpers

Shelia Tankersley, Loving Arms provides Christmas for children with the help of Aphrodite, volunteers

BY LAINE MCNEIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The holiday season is fast approaching and most of us are looking forward to the gifts we'll get when that special day rolls around. But, imagine if you will, what Christmas must be like for a child whose family is infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. That image is one Shelia Tankersley can't bear to picture in her mind.

Tankersley, the founder and executive director of Memphis' Loving Arms, knows what it's like to be a single mother, a mother who is fearful that Christmas may not come to her home. That's why Loving Arms has done everything in its power to provide Christmas to the children it serves since it began almost 10 years ago.

"We've been providing as much of a Christmas as we can since Loving Arms first started," Tankersley told *Family & Friends*. "During the first four years we only had about 30 families, and today, we serve more than 500 children, which includes 186 families. We try to provide as much as we can."

Tankersley is the mother of four children, Lynne of Cleveland, Ohio; Joe of Eudora, Miss.; Mike of Dallas, and Selena of Los Angeles, and grandmother of 11-year old Leslie of Southaven, and an expected bundle of joy due in January

to her daughter Lynne and her partner, Michelle. Because of her experiences as a single mother, Tankersley said she feels the pain of each and every mother Loving Arms serves.

"All of our families are low-income and Christmas can be a very stressful time, especially for a single mom," she said. "As a single mother raising four kids alone, I remember what it was like as Christmas began to approach and I began to wonder how I was going to pull it (Christmas) off. I just know how that feels."

Besides worrying about how they will provide Christmas for their children, many of Loving Arms' clients are struggling with other issues, issues such as HIV, poverty, abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

"If I can be the catalyst who connects donors to our families, then that is my project," Tankersley noted. "If we can take this much (the worry of providing Christmas) off the women then we have accomplished much. We have reduced the stress in these women's lives. Stress that comes with the holidays, and with HIV, stress is the last thing these women need."

Of course, Tankersley doesn't do all of this alone. There are plenty of Santa's Helpers involved.

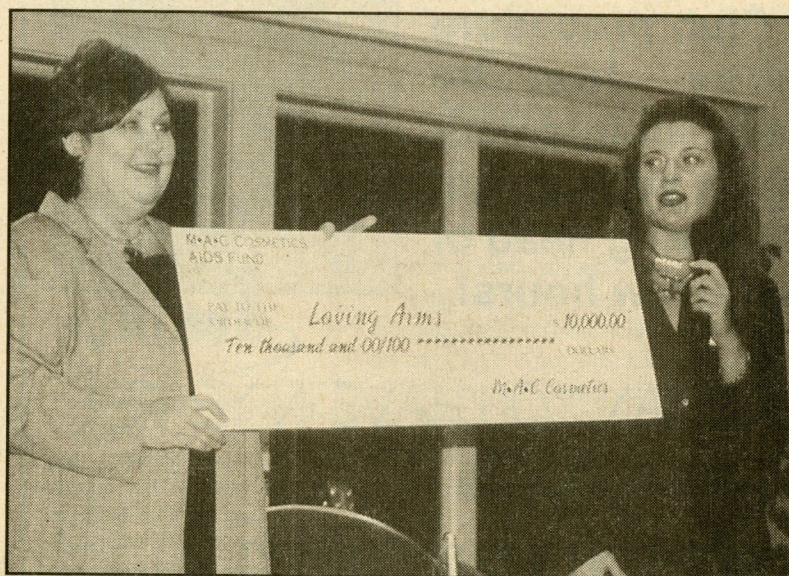
The Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite has been lending its collective hand to Loving Arms' Christmas project since the organization's inception.

"Aphrodite has always helped with providing toys for the children, ever since we started," Tankersley recalled. "Although it was on a smaller scale than it has been the past three years. Three years ago, Aphrodite began doing a holiday show, the proceeds of which were used to buy toys for the children. They've been doing the show every since. Once they've raised the money, the members come to me and get a list of what we need and they actually go out and buy the gifts. It's very special."

Why does Aphrodite go out of its way to help bring Christmas joy to these under-served children?

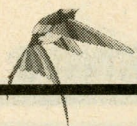
"First off, that's what we (Aphrodite) do - fund-raise," explained Patti Martin, Aphrodite president. "For a child to go without Christmas is a terrible thing; it just breaks your heart to even imagine it."

And, don't forget, Christmas is about giving, not receiving.



Loving Arm's founder and executive director Shelia Tankersley, left, accepts a \$10,000 check for the organization from Mac Cosmetics.

See Santa's Helpers, page 7



Santa's Helpers

from page 6

"It's absolutely a blast to go shopping for these children," Martin continued. "To go out and have a list and then go to a store owner and try to get them to give you a discount so you can get more toys – that's the most fun. It's just a great feeling in your heart knowing you're not waiting for a 'thank you,' that's gratitude, pure and simple."

Alma Decena, Aphrodite ball captain and show coordinator, said it gives her a good feeling.

"It gives me a good feeling to know we can help these kids have a better Christmas," Decena said. "When I was little I got whatever I wanted, and these kids don't have that opportunity. It just gives me a warm, cozy feeling inside to really help out."

What does Decena want for Christmas?

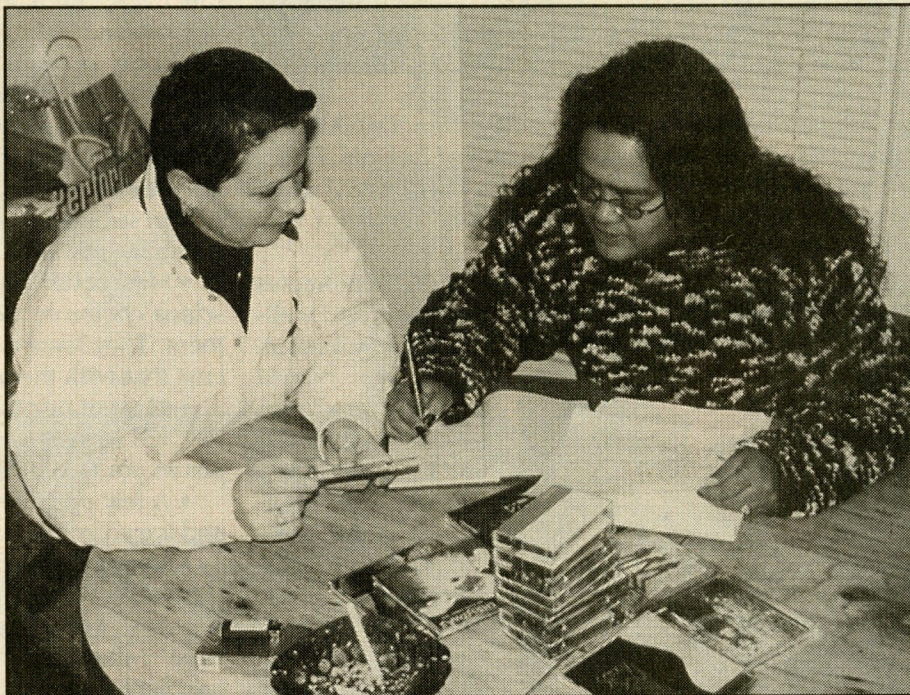
"I hope the (Aphrodite holiday) show fills the room – that's all I want for Christmas," she added. The Aphrodite Holiday Show is set for Sunday, Dec. 3, at 8:30 p.m. at Madison Flame.

But, Aphrodite members aren't the only Santa's Helpers Loving Arms has.

"We have volunteers, including a group from One More Bar & Grill, who load their cars and trucks down each year and deliver the presents and dinners," Tankersley said. "It's so cool to watch them leave and pull out like a great big caravan. It's great to see so many people helping and getting excited about playing Santa and Santa's Helpers. It really brings me so much joy to just stand here watching them." It's the kind of joy that brings tears to Tankersley's eyes. Delivery of the toys and dinners usually takes place the weekend before Christmas.

However, it takes much more than Aphrodite's annual holiday show to provide Christmas for what has come to be known as "Shelia's Kids."

"Last year, even though we had so much donated, including the *Family & Friends* and Backstreet Memphis toys and wrapping paper, we still spent an additional \$4,000 to 'fill in the cracks,'" Tankersley recalled. "A lot of people said to just 'cut it off,' (Loving Arms likes to provide more than one gift per child since most children get more than one gift at Christmas time). But how do you just 'cut it off' when you know these children personally and you know how hard it will be for their mothers to explain why Santa



Aphrodite's Carol Stockon, left, and Alma Decena make final plans for Aphrodite's annual holiday show, set for Sunday, Dec. 3, at 8:30 p.m. at Madison Flame.

didn't come to their house? How do you do that?"

Tankersley noted that Loving Arms always falls short on gifts to teenagers. She also explained that Loving Arms always serves the women and children of those who are very ill first and leaving the women who perhaps have a job for last. "We're all about empowerment, not enabling," she added.

If you're asking yourself, what about food? The answer is simple. Loving Arms also provides as many Christmas meals as it can to its clients.

"Christmas dinners are also delivered the same day as the gifts," Tankersley explained. "Although the food is not cooked, we provide a turkey, pies, potatoes and canned goods, but we never have enough to go around. Last year we delivered 50 meals, which was as many as we had donated."

Loving Arms, which will note its 10-year anniversary this February, is encouraging sponsors of a child or a family. Sponsors can be companies, churches, couples or even individuals; all that is required is a desire to provide the best Christmas possible for the children.

In addition, Loving Arms is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

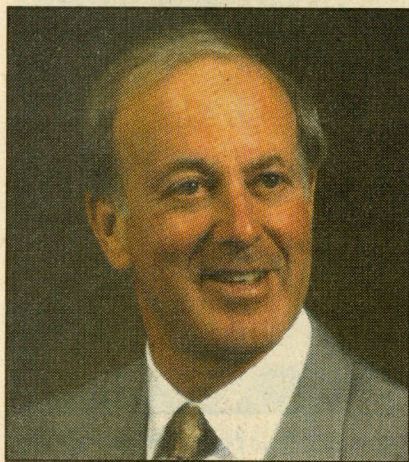
If you would like to sponsor a child or family, make a donation or be a Santa's Helper, call Loving Arms today at (901) 725-6730 and ask for Tankersley or Yvonne Wooten, social services coordinator.



Dr. Arnold Drake to steer national PFLAG

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Our community was honored when Dr. Arnold Drake was elected National President of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) at its annual meeting in October. Drake will serve for two years, 2001 and 2002.



Dr. Arnold Drake

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Serving more than 80,000 members and supporters, PFLAG's more than 440 chapters and affiliates are located in communities across the United States.

"I'm excited. I am the first Southerner to be the president of PFLAG," Drake told *Family & Friends*. "We have members and officers from all around the country. I think it shows that more and more people are interested in civil rights for gays and lesbians. We're excited about making our schools safer for our children; there's too much violence against all children in all of our schools."

According to Drake's acceptance speech, posted on PFLAG's website at www.pflag.org, Drake gave his views of PFLAG's three-fold mission: support, advocacy and education.

He pointed out the importance of the local chapters of PFLAG, which provide support, be it in small groups or one-on-one, to family and friends trying to understand their GLBT loved one.

Secondly, Drake pointed out the simplicity of being an advocate. "Advocacy can be done by anyone and everyone," Drake said. "When we tell our neighbor or our family members that we love our GLBT family member, we are an advocate. When we march in a Gay pride parade, or write a letter to the editor, or speak at a public meeting ... we are an advocate. It is something all of us can do in a large or small way."

Drake pointed out that because of the lack of scientific evidence, education can be a difficult prospect when people are looking for answers. Drake focused on the nature-nur-

ture debate on whether one is born gay or if it is a choice one makes.

"In my opinion, our discussion with our friends and neighbors might include the following points:

- The exact scientific cause of sexual orientation is unknown, and is not our major concern.

- Science has determined that genetics probably plays a part in sexual orientation; how this happens, and to what extent, is unknown.

- Most of our family members feel that they had no conscious choice in their sexual orientation, and we believe them. They have a choice in their "lifestyle," and we discuss that with them.

- Most of our transgendered children say they are not gay, and we welcome them. They are discriminated against just as our (gay and lesbian) family members are.

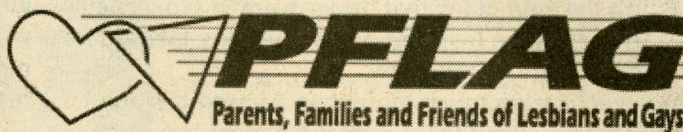
- A few people tell us that they have chosen to be gay, and we accept them.

- Some people tell us that they have tried hard to change their sexual orientation, and they have been unsuccessful. Some feel they have been harmed by the experience. They have 'walked away from the ex-gay lifestyle,' and are much happier living their lives openly and honestly. We celebrate their honesty.

- Some people tell us that they were gay, and have chosen not to be gay. We tell them that is fine for them, but that we have seen too many people in the past who have said that, and later recanted. This shouldn't matter to anyone except them. But when the lives of supposedly ex-gays are used to terrorize our loved ones, and deny them civil rights, then it is everyone's business.

- We tell them that our PFLAG families have been, and will continue to be, cooperative in research about our GLBT families. We would suggest that if they (ex-gays) wish to be believed, they should do the same.

In the Memphis and Mid-South area there are five chap-



ters of PFLAG. Memphis, Antioch (Nashville), Chattanooga, and Jackson, Tenn., and Little Rock, Ark., all have chapters.

Matt Nevels, president of PFLAG of Greater Chattanooga, told *Family & Friends*, "He (Drake) is a good man. If there is such a thing as earning that position, he certainly has done that with his experience and efforts with PFLAG. He will do a good job in that position. Our chapter will certainly be supportive of him in that effort."

For more on PFLAG and local chapters, visit its website at www.pflag.org.



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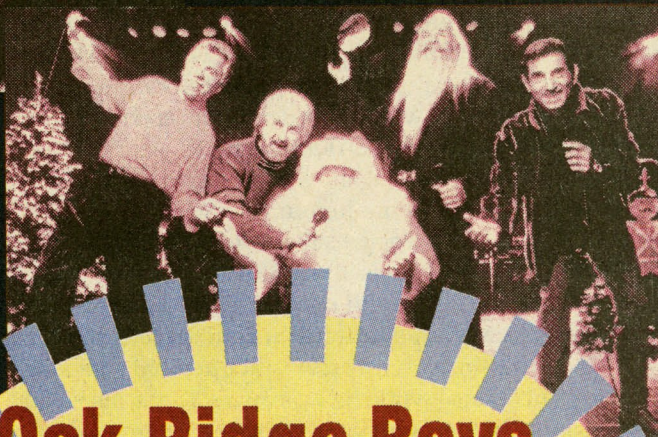
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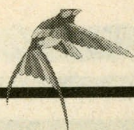
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The Law & The GLBT Community

Couple finds harassment not grounds for discrimination

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Joseph May and Michael Travis have been living in the same apartment complex, the Oakshire Apartments, for two-and-a-half years. Until recently, things were fine. Then on Oct. 7, some adolescent and childish foolishness sparked an ordeal from which the two men are just now recovering.

Leaving their townhouse, they were met in the courtyard by children taunting them and calling them "faggot." Words were exchanged. The men headed for their car but turned around and headed back to the house. They just didn't feel comfortable leaving the townhouse unoccupied after the incident.

From there, things seemed to deteriorate. According to May, people continued to stand outside their apartment, watching their coming and going. They feared these people were trying to break into their townhouse.

It turns out two of the children who were doing the taunting were the grandchildren of the assistant manager. Thus, a personal issue evolved between the assistant manager, her family, May and Travis. More heated words, name-calling, threats and taunting were sent the men's way. Ultimately, a brick was thrown through their window and the word "Punk" spray-painted on their front door.

It was obvious there were some neighbors and staff who would prefer May and Travis not live there.

"I felt I had been outed ... and I was embarrassed and it had never happened to me before," Travis explained to *Family & Friends*. "It turned to fear after the threats and intimidation and I had never lived like that before."

Both May and Travis found that even day-to-day activities were altered. May said he found it hard to focus at work due to his lack of sleep and worrying about what someone might do to his house while he was away. Travis also said he feared something might happen to his partner while he was away at work, since they worked different shifts. The fear, frustration, anxiousness and exhaustion continued.

Finally, the men realized they needed protection from their perpetrators.

After the first verbal altercation, May contacted Steffen G. Schreiner, attorney at law. He also contacted the property management company, Makowsky & Ringel, to complain about the incidents. With persistence, May also called the Memphis Police Department after each incident. Eventually, he also called News Channel 3, which did the first newsclip on the brick-throwing incident. Later, Channel 13 covered the growing situation.

On Oct. 31, Makowsky & Ringel responded to their com-

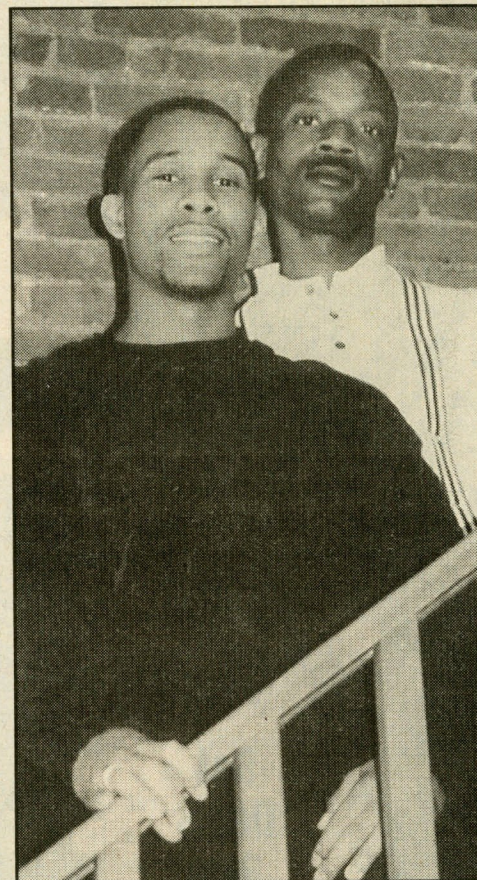
plaints with a certified letter. In that letter, Makowsky & Ringel wrote it would take the necessary steps to insure May's and Travis's safety as its tenants. The management company further stated it would not tolerate unlawful behaviors at the Oakshire Apartments and even offered May and Travis the opportunity to break their existing lease in order to move elsewhere, if they so desired.

As of press time, both May and Travis have

reported that all the incidences have ceased since Makowsky & Ringel's letter. The men's emotions are still bruised, however, and the anxiousness still continues. They reported that any contact with the assistant manager now is met with a referral to the property manager.

So what are their legal recourses? Not much, at least as far as housing discrimination. First, The federal Fair Housing Act does not cover sexual preference (see story on page 11). Even if it was covered, was this a case of discrimination? Or was it something else? Because it appears the management company took May's complaint seriously and took the steps necessary under the law to make May's and Travis's living conditions safe, and the fact that the taunting, threats and harassment have ceased since the letter was sent, the incident does not meet the definition of "discrimination."

According to a letter from Schreiner, dated Nov. 21, the



Joseph May, left, and Michael Travis

See Discrimination, page 53

How housing laws affect GLBT community

The Federal Fair Housing Act (1968) prohibits discrimination in housing and related transactions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability and familial status (the presence or anticipated presence of children under 18 in a home). The Act covers rentals, home sales, mortgage lending, homeowners's insurance, home improvements and zoning.

State and local laws may extend the classes to include such characteristics as sexual preference, age and even student housing. However, neither Tennessee, Arkansas nor Mississippi extend such housing protection to include sexual preference.

Not all "unfair" practices under a lease agreement or real-estate transaction are covered under this Act. For example, a landlord that doesn't follow through with repairs or a real estate agent that violates ethics would not be covered under this Act; however, they would be liable at a state or local judicial level.

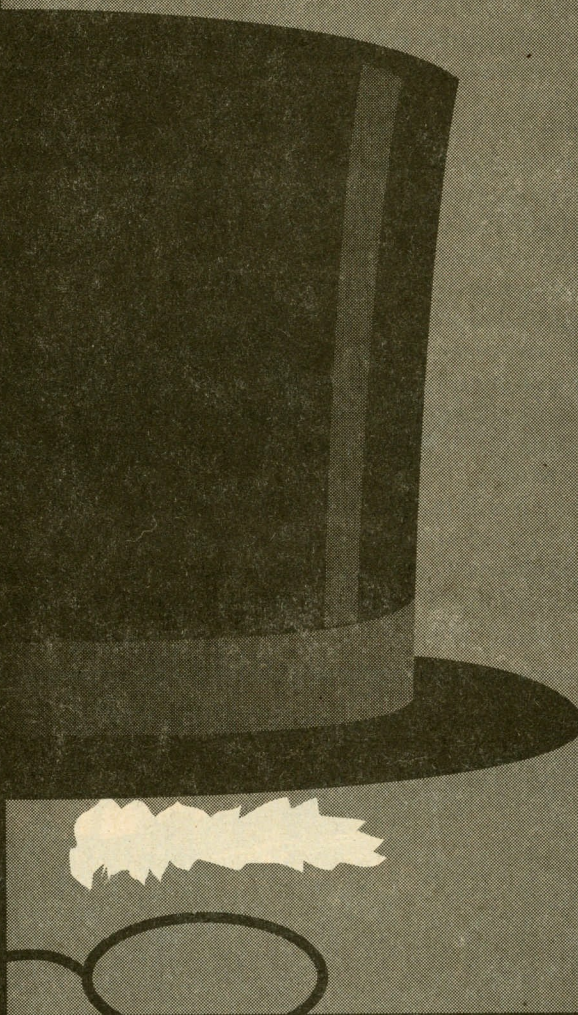
Specifically, the Act deals with the refusal to sell or rent; discrimination in terms, conditions or privileges of sale; advertising; denying availability; blockbusting (inducing panic by telling white homeowners that others are moving because minorities are moving in); steering (when a real estate agent shows white clients homes only in predominantly-white neighborhoods and minority clients homes only in non-white neighborhoods); failure to make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities; lending institution discrimination against classes, and red-lining (evaluating home loans based on maps marked in red to indicate poor-risk areas).

For more on the National Fair Housing Act, visit the website: www.fairhousing.com.

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november 30 - december 23

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BULLETIN

The annual "A PLACE AT THE TABLE" event held in September raised almost \$110,000 for FRIENDS FOR LIFE: ALOYSIUS HOME/AIDS RESOURCE CENTER. More than 2,000 members of our community made such a wonderfully-large donation possible. Thanks also go to the organizers of this annual event, CARISSA HUSSONG, DAVID LUSK, JASON EAGLE, GEORGE MABON, GRANT RAY, SHAWN MATHEWS AND DAVID THOMPSON.

LOVING ARMS was happy to host its "Home for the Holidays Christmas Auction 2000" last month. They also received a check for \$10,000 at the auction from MAC Cosmetics and a \$10,000 donation from KROGER. All of these much-needed funds will go to help in their delivery of services to women and children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS.

HOPE HOUSE, a daycare facility for children living with HIV/AIDS, was the recipient of \$60,000 from the Time-Warner Hope House Golf Classic 2000 held in October.

DIVERSE EXCURSIONS, owned by Jon Arnold, can now be found at 3618 Coleman Ave., Memphis, TN 38122. Its new phone number is (901) 327-3614.

Congratulations go to THEATRE MEMPHIS on receiving the first-place award during the American Association of Community Theatres Competition in Cookeville, Tenn., in October. The company will take their winning production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* to the regional level in March.

Speaking of THEATRE MEMPHIS, "Pay-What-You-Can" nights will now be offered for both main stage and Little Theatre productions. For example, Wednesday, Dec. 6, has been so designated for the Christmas favorite *A Christmas Carol*.

MEMPHIS PRIDE INC. is on the ball. Planning is already taking place for the 2001 pride events, set for June 15, 16 and 17. Everyone is encouraged to join Memphis Pride Inc. and/or to attend the next meeting, set for Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue. Your ideas and your help are important in making Memphis produce the best pride event this area has ever seen.

Rumor has it a DRAG KING show will be heading to Memphis in JANUARY. This is something a lot of people, especially women, have been missing in our town. Stay tuned.

Anyone interested in being a part of the GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE for the RYAN WHITE CARE ACT funds coming to Memphis needs to contact Gwen Exson at the United Way of the Mid-South, (901) 543-5832. Those serving on this committee cannot be affiliated with any agency receiving funding.

PMS AND FRIENDS presented "Classic Memories for Misha" on Nov. 17, at Madison Flame. They have already collected almost \$13,000 of the \$15,000 pledged for the expenses for MICHELLE "MISHA" MEDLIN, who lost her battle with cancer on Friday, Nov. 24. *Family & Friends* extends our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

The GAY & LESBIAN INTERESTS READING DISCUSSION GROUP, which meets at Bookstar Midtown, located on Poplar just west of Highland, (also known as the Gay & Lesbian Book Club) will not meet in December. Instead it will hold its next meeting Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m.

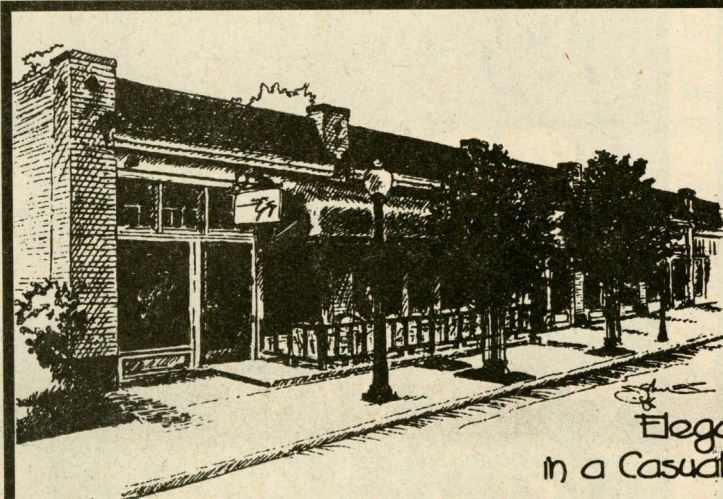
The HOLIDAYS are a particularly stressful time of year. In addition, many people suffer from the WINTER BLAHS. If you find yourself overwhelmed or things seem just too hard to deal with, please, pick up the telephone and call the CRISIS CENTER at (901) 274-7477.

We've heard some members of our community are not feeling quite up-to-par. In fact, the list is rather lengthy to list it here. However, please know

that our prayers are with you in hopes of many speedy recoveries.

If you want to get involved in the community, the COALITION FOR GAY & LESBIAN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS needs you. For more information, call (901) 682-2669.

Stopped in at LILLY'S DIMSUM THENSOME one Sunday afternoon recently. We ordered the ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT DIMSUM. If you're curious about some of the dishes, this is a great way to sample them and you might be surprised.



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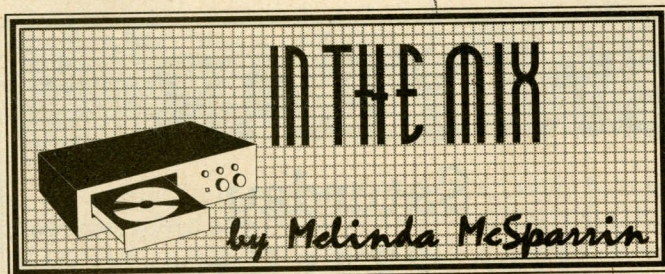
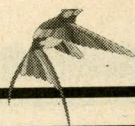
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SON OF A GUN – PISTOL PETE AND POPGUN PAUL

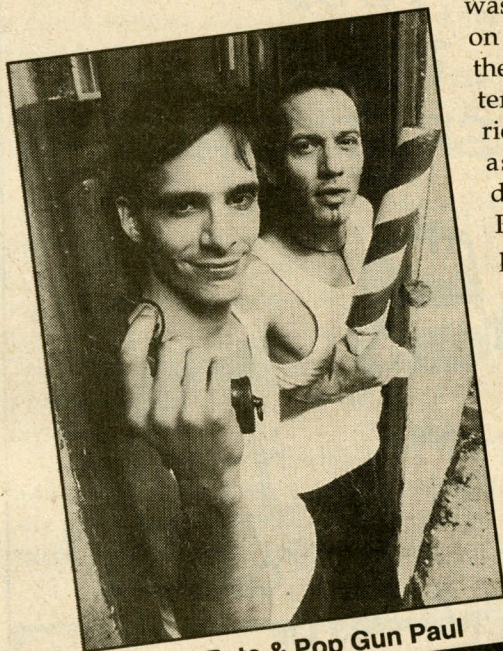
I was recently introduced to a very fun CD by Pete Sturman and Paul Cowgill ... better known as Pistol Pete and Popgun Paul. The CD is called *Son of a Gun*, and it is the second CD release for this "dynamic duo."

Sturman and Cowgill met in New Orleans in 1993. Sturman was a "punkie-folkie with a master's degree in

English." Cowgill was hanging out on the streets of the French Quarter, "telling stories of his days as a teenage drag queen and Pentecostal pianist." They came up with the name of Pistol Pete and Popgun Paul as "tongue-in-cheek outlaws with an aim to entertain." They have been called "the

gay Everly Brothers" and "a homocore reincarnation of Simon and Garfunkel." I see them as the gay communities' answer to Peter, Paul and Mary and the Washington Squares with just the right blend of camp and pure unabated talent.

Son of a Gun is a mixture of country, folk and Louisiana-style rock along with a touch of gospel and blues. The song writing is superb and the musical arrangements are heartfelt and sincere. The predominant pairing is of acoustic guitar and piano, with all other instruments blending in as a background. There are fine performances from all of the musicians involved, including Sneaky Pete on bass and electric guitar; Matt Swiler on drums and percussion; Myshkin providing the voice on "Magick" and "Whatsyname;"



Pistol Pete & Pop Gun Paul



Mike West on mandolin, acoustic lead guitar and banjo, and Sturman and Cowgill with vocals and acoustic guitar and Cowgill also adding piano.

If you are looking for something that is just pure fun to listen to, I highly recommend Pistol Pete and Popgun Paul. I don't think you will be disappointed!

...

LOVERS ROCK – SADE

Back with her first collection of new work in eight years, Sade's *Lovers Rock* immediately strikes a romantic and relaxing nerve! From the acoustic guitar backdrop of the first single, "By Your Side," throughout the entire CD, it is evident the eight years are well worth the wait for this talented artist.

Sade was born Helen Folasade Adu in Ibadan, Nigeria, and was raised in Colchester, Essex, where she moved at the age of four after her English mother separated from her Nigerian father. Growing up, she listened to soul artists like Curtis Mayfield, Donny Hathaway and Marvin Gaye. She didn't think about singing herself, but rather studied fashion at St. Martin's Art College, only signing on as a vocalist when a couple of old school friends started a band "until they found a proper singer." Fortunately enough for us, Sade discovered a rare delight in song-writing. It was while she was with this group that she co-wrote "Smooth Operator" with Ray St. John and the rest is history.

Lovers Rock keeps with Sade's trademark sultry and sensual style of relating music to her listeners. This album's heavy use of acoustic guitar, accompanied by light percussion and soft string arrangements, not to mention Sade's tremendous vocals, makes for a treasure to the ears and a delight to the heart and soul. Two of my favorites are "By Your Side" and "Somebody Already Broke My Heart."

See In The Mix, page 15



In The Mix

from page 14

All of the CD's songs are rich in sound and meaning, and truly is a rock for lovers!

...

FOREVER – SPICE GIRLS

When I first learned the Spice Girls had a new CD out, I shuddered. I postponed listening to the CD because the mere mention of this group was enough to terrify me. I found it very difficult to take any group seriously with names like "Scary," "Sporty," "Posh," etc. I was admittedly ready to tear this CD down and throw it to the dogs. HOWEVER, when I put it into my stereo and turned it on, I immediately wanted to crawl under a rock in shame and embarrassment. THIS CD IS GREAT!!!!

Yep, you heard me ... this CD is great. From the opening funky up-tempo track and first single, "Holler," to the slow-ballad feel of the final track, "Goodbye," it is obvious these girls have matured musically and become more focused on being artists instead of household words.

IT SHOWS. The R&B feel of the CD is a treat. If the Spice Girls won awards for their previous efforts (which they have in abundance), then they should come out on top with this one as I feel it is a much better effort than anything they have done before. Great beats ... great vocals ... great musical arrangements equals GREAT CD. What more can I say?

...

BETTE – BETTE MIDLER

Wednesday nights at 7 p.m., anyone who knows me knows that I will be planted firmly on my couch with my TV tuned to CBS and the incomparable Bette Midler in her new sitcom, "Bette," where she plays none other than herself. She also uses her show to showcase her amazing musical talents.

One might wonder what she was planning to do with some of the music she has performed on the show. Well, wonder no more. She is back with a new album!!!

Bette is a collection of some new music, but also a vehicle for tremendous covers of such songs as "Just My Imagination," "Love TKO" and "Shining Star." One of my

favorites on the CD (which moved me to tears the first time I heard it on her show) is "Color of Roses." This song is Bette at her best. Of course, I am also quite partial to "Love TKO." With its smooth string arrangements, sexy

vocals and sultry saxophone, my hat is off to the Divine Ms. M, I never thought anyone could come close to touching Teddy Pendergrass and his version of the song. But I am here to tell you, Bette has done just that !!

What can be said about Better Midler that hasn't been said already? Diva Extraordinaire ... The Divine One ... The Divine Miss M ... the descriptive lists goes on and on. This CD is proof Bette just keeps getting better and better and shows no signs of stopping (thank goodness). So if you are looking for a treat, look no further.

Let the Divine One entertain you. She will have you wanting more! I know I did!



The Spice Girls are, from left, Victoria, Melanie C, Melanie B and Emma.

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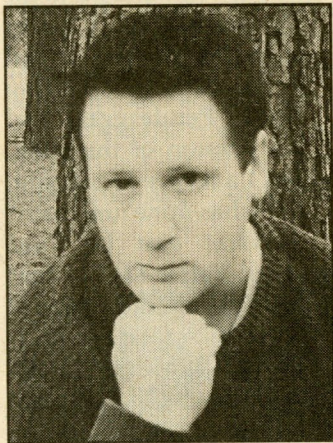


Local author realizes dream of being published

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Corey Taylor follows his dreams. With the heart of a writer he saw his first novel, *The Dinner Club*, put in print Nov. 13.

"I've been writing since I was 10. And I've always wanted to do a novel. I wrote a novel about vampires before this; it was very negative. Through my spirituality, I decided that's not how I wanted to be known. So I decided to write a positive novel for gays and lesbians," Taylor explained to *Family & Friends*.



Corey Taylor

Many in our community share Taylor's dream of wanting to be published, but never see it happen. However, Taylor's persistence and resourcefulness helped him flow against

the tide of rejection letters.

"It took three months to write (*The Dinner Club*) and one-and-a-half years to get it published," he noted.

Although Taylor, 30, was published in a relatively short time span, he said it was hard to find a publisher.

Taylor, as manager of a bookstore, had an opportunity to meet James Michael Pratt, author of *The Lighthouse Keeper*, who suggested the avenue of self-publishing.

"This is something that has been done by authors like John Grisham, E. Lynn Harris, and many others dating way back to the beginning of publishing," Taylor said. Self-publishing companies pay for printing the book and handle the distribution of the book. However, all marketing of the book is left up to the author. The author is paid as the books are sold.

However, Pratt also warned him against "vanity publishers," which basically are printers the author pays to print their book. The author is shipped the completed books they pay for. It is up to the writer to market, distribute and ship their product.

Taylor, with the tips in mind he had received so far, then read an article in *Writer's Digest*, also about self-publishing. He submitted his manuscript of *The Dinner Club* to several of the publishers listed in the article.

"I am very lucky to have gotten this opportunity from them," Taylor said about being accepted by Xlibris, a subsidiary of Random House.

In the few weeks the book has been available for sale, Taylor said, "the book has already gotten a lot of excellent

response" with above-average first-day sales, according to the publisher, Xlibris.

"I was a little overwhelmed and incredibly excited ... for it to start off so popular, so fast was very pleasing to me."

About the book ...

The Dinner Club tells the story of Brandon, a gay man, who lives in Chicago. Brandon discovers his father is dying of cancer and reluctantly follows his father's wishes to return to the small town he grew up in to take over the family business. Brandon is self-involved, slightly spoiled, yet a likeable character who learns the depth of his own spirit through his relationships with his friends, his mother and father and the men in his life. The story is uplifting ... it is "feel good" gay fiction.

And just how close is this fiction to the truth?

"The book is complete fiction. Some of the characters are loosely based on friends of mine and some characters bear the name of friends of mine but none of the events actually happened," explained author Corey Taylor.

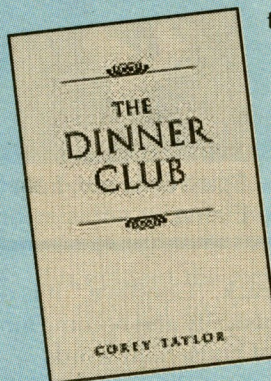
"In 1995, I moved back to Illinois, to attend Lake Land College after living in Memphis. To move back to

the small town was very strange. That experience of going back to a small town after having left it for a big city (influenced the book)," Taylor explained.

Born in Illinois, Taylor first moved to Memphis nine years ago. At Lake Land College, he majored in radio/television broadcasting and was editor-in-chief of the college newspaper.

Besides touring to promote the book, Taylor is presently working on a collection of short stories ... all gay and lesbian fiction. Next year, Taylor said he will be writing a screenplay for *The Dinner Club* and a sequel to *The Dinner Club*, called *Fireflies*.

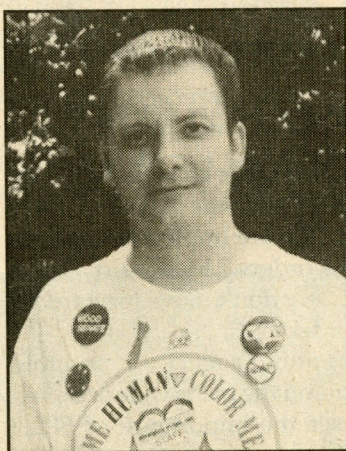
The Dinner Club is soft-back and 178 pages long. It is available at Borders in Germantown; Bookstar on Poplar, or online at <http://www.xlibris.com/TheDinnerClub.html>. For more information, go to Taylor's website at www.angelfire.com/tn2/coreytaylor.



Jim Maynard is named Equality Tennessee vice-chair

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

In August, a new statewide GLBT activist organization, Equality Tennessee was formed in Tennessee with the purpose "to promote the equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons by educating the citizens of Tennessee on GLBT history, social issues and civic responsibility."



Jim Maynard

Memphis' own Jim Maynard has been elected as vice-chair for the West Tennessee division.

Maynard, who also presently serves as co-chair of the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice, explained to *Family & Friends* the difference in the two organizations.

"The Memphis Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice just focuses on Memphis and Shelby County and local issues. Equality Tennessee is at the state

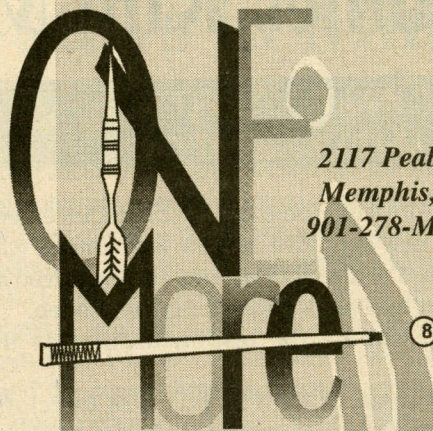
level ... our main voice in the state legislature," Maynard said.

Rhonda White of Nashville has been elected chair of Equality Tennessee. She also serves as chair of The Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice in Nashville, which likewise serves at a local level for that city. However, according to White, since it is in the capital of Tennessee for the past six years there has been an overlap by their organization into state level issues. In order to delineate the responsibilities and have an actual state-level organization to deal exclusively with state-related issues, Equality Tennessee was born.

The following goals for Equality Tennessee were established by the board members:

- Educate the public on GLBT issues in order to combat hate and ignorance.
- Facilitate involvement with other GLBT organizations in Tennessee for improved relationships, and act as a com-

See Maynard, page 45

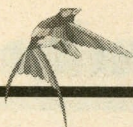


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Carol Plunk	Dec. 3 rd
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Deacon Cross	Dec. 16 th
Carol Plunk	Dec. 17 th
Mercy Tease	Dec. 22 nd
Deacon Cross	Dec. 31 st

It's always a PARTY at One More!



FFL names Kim Moss interim director

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

Friends For Life: Aloysius Home and AIDS Resource Center is searching for a new executive director. Ruth Brown was dismissed by the board of directors last month. She served as executive director for two years, succeeding Tom Roden.

Kim Moss has assumed the responsibilities as interim director.

Carl Weibel, chairman of the FFL board of directors, noted Moss' expertise in grants was one of the reasons the board selected him as interim director.

"He can give us information we were not able to get before. (He can meet the) high demands for information we were looking for," Weibel said.

According to Weibel, the board has initiated a "process of getting the financial information up-to-date for the agency with the help of Moss and an accountant."

Weibel said grants can be a formable task from a book-keeping and management standpoint. Profit and Loss statements have to be maintained on each grant. Add to that the fact that more than one grant may fund one job or service and funds can only be used as designated by the granting agency.

In his capacity as interim director, Moss has terminated six full-time and one part-time employee. According to Moss, one was a case-worker at FFL, one was the van driver and the remaining employees were working at Aloysius Home.

Moss said the decision to reduce staff was a financial one.

"We made cuts of almost every position that was not grant-funded," Moss explained to *Family & Friends*. "We have decreased no services ... some people are having to work a little harder. We had to get creative and utilize the staff we had ... It sounds terrible, but when you look at the situation you see why ... we don't have the money so we can't spend it."

However, Moss added the van operated by FFL had to be taken out of service due to excessive van repairs, which they did not have the money for. Accordingly, the van driver was terminated. However, he said FFL still provides clients with cab vouchers and bus tokens as a means to get them transportation.

"We have to get stable fast and we are getting there," he stated.

Moss has already implemented other changes to the internal workings of FFL and Aloysius Home in order to have better control of the finances. "We are implementing contract management ... purchase orders," Moss said. "I'm a planner but I'm also realistic ... we don't move forward till we get our current house in order."

"We have met with (the granting) agencies ... and told them of our plans and cutbacks and the plans were accepted by all these funders ... they see the importance of FFL," Moss said.

Weibel agreed with Moss, "We have had positive input from the funding agencies. These agencies have been of

See FFL, page 52

Starts November 4, 2000

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First Congo expands, stays in Midtown

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

The year 2001, will be a transitional year for the membership of First Congregational Church, according to Rev. Cheryl Cornish, pastor.

In need of more space, First Congregational recently purchased the building at 1000 South Cooper from Greater Imani Church and Christian Center. (Greater Imani Church has secured another church property in Raleigh for its congregation.)

Rev. Cornish said it should take up to a year to complete the move from the historic church location at 246 Watkins at Eastmoreland to the South Cooper address.

"(We will) start doing something immediately," Cornish explained to *Family & Friends*. "Plans are underway about renovating the sanctuary. We have to move our historic organ over, but certain renovations have to be done first. (We are) still uncertain when we will hold worship there, but we will hold some programming at the new location beginning in the new year. We are looking at 2001, as a transition year and we will be working from both locations."

According to Rev. Cornish, besides the fact the 250-member congregation of First Congregational has outgrown its existing facilities, another reason for the move is "to enable more outreach ... one of our great hopes in the move." A third advantage of the move will be more accessible parking.

Although the Memphis Landmarks Commission and the Central Garden Association both objected to First Congregational's original plan to raze two adjacent buildings, known as the Pilgrim Center and the Parish House, in order to expand the actual church building/sanctuary, ultimately the two groups approved the expansion plans. The renovation of the existing facilities was estimated to cost \$3.4 million.

However, during those proceedings, the Cooper-Young Association, aware that they were about to lose a major church (Greater Imani) in their community, contacted Rev. Cornish about considering moving to that location. The members of First Congregational Church voted to purchase the Greater Imani church at a cost of \$1.5 million, substantially less expensive than renovations plans for the existing facility.

First Congregational plans to continue and increase its

See First Congo, page 44

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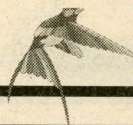
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STRAIGHT UP

BUT NOT STRAIGHT

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Dear Straight Up,

Through a chat room on the Internet, I recently became involved with a man who lives in another state. Things are really going great, and he would really love for me to move to be with him. I want to, but there's one big problem. I am still very close to my ex-lover, and he wishes to move with me. I have not discussed my new relationship with him, and he doesn't know the real reason why I want to move to another state. We have been broken up for four years, yet I still take his feelings into account when making decisions. We love each other, and we make great friends. But if I were to move away to start a new relationship, I would want to do it alone. Is this so wrong?

Your letter really disturbed me. As if relocating to another state, finding a new job, leaving family and friends behind, and starting over aren't enough worries to contend with, you are dabbling with the idea of moving your ex-lover with you to be with you and your new lover, and the two know nothing about the other. My dear, have you ever heard, "two's company and three's a crowd?"

There's absolutely NO reason why you should take an ex-partner's feelings into account when making decisions about your life. You are no longer together. That means both of you should be free to pursue the lives you want and need. Yet, you're afraid to even tell you ex that you're seeing someone new. Why?

Is it because you're afraid that your being with someone else will finally end the relationship you've only partially let go of? There's something that ties you to this man, and you have to figure out what it is. Four years is a long time to be broken up; you and your ex should not still have this much influence over one another. Remaining friends with an ex can be a good thing. There's no reason why two people who were once a couple need to break off all relations once that relationship becomes something else. But you guys have not completely let go of one another. True. It might hurt your ex-lover if you tell him that you are seeing someone new and anticipate taking your new relationship to a higher level. However, your ex-lover is a grown man, and that is something he will have to deal with. You are, however, responsible for your own emotions and how you deal with them. If you really care about this new man in your life, and want to be with him then move to another state. Don't go because you want to finally get away from your ex. Don't go expecting your new lover to make you happy. Go because you accept the fact that things are truly over

with you and your ex and that you are ready to go on with your life.

Tell your ex about your new lover, and tell him he cannot continue to be such a big part of your life. And just as much as he needs to understand that, you need to understand and believe it, too. Until you do, you won't have truly ended your old relationship, and you won't be free to begin a new one. This scenario is a disaster waiting to happen if you allow it to continue.

...

Dear Straight Up,

I've just recently been diagnosed with bi-polar disorder. I'm terrified it will affect my current steady relationship. I'm not nearly as worried about the illness causing additional problems, it's the medication the doctor has prescribed. I'm afraid it will deplete my sex drive. If this happens, I fear my boyfriend will leave me. What do I do?

Signed, Terrified!

Dear Terrified:

I hear ya. When you start dabbling with one's erogenous zones... LOOK OUT! However, medications and advanced knowledge about various mental disorders have come a long way since Bipolar Disorder (formerly known as Manic Depressive Disorder) originated. Also, many new drugs are being invented that have less side effects, yet, continue to add [some] stability in the lives of those diagnosed as Bipolar. With the birth of the Internet, a plethora of information is easily found just by dialing up, and connecting to various medical sites introducing new discoveries, and ways to help detour some of the side effects of some medications.

I suggest you speak with your doctor in depth regarding your fears, your limited information, and desires regarding medication. Remember he/she works for YOU, not the other way around. Your physician should be able to answer any questions you might have regarding this issue.

Also, if your relationship is stable and founded upon true love, sex should only be an incentive, not a requirement. Many people have learned over the years that there are various techniques, means and discoveries to be found between two individuals who truly enjoy being with one another. Actually some have found that after exploration, their sex lives have gained versus deteriorated in the process. Be open to new suggestions from your partner and allow yourself to view this new way of living as a journey

See Straight Up, page 21

Holiday gift idea

ETC subscriptions make the perfect gift

Too much drama this holiday season? Then give a little more ... Emerald Theatre Company season subscriptions are on sale now!

ETC is gearing up for its fifth year of residency at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Avenue. The new season begins March 2001.

During the past few seasons, ETC has brought Mem-

phis' gay and lesbian community such stirring and provocative works as *Boys in The Band*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe*, *Deathwatch* and *Jerker*.

A season subscription would make a wonderful gift and right now you can save some serious money!

A season subscription, at a cost of \$20, entitles you to three shows. Or get two season subscriptions for only \$35. Call (901) 722-9302 for ordering information. Holiday prices good through Dec. 15.

Straight Up

from page 20

versus a setback.

Learn as much as you can about your illness and how it may or may not affect your particular situation. If, after a trial run of the new medications, you feel that they are doing more to decrease your "desires," then speak with your physician. Weigh out the options: days filled with ongoing cycles of sadness and excessive activity, or a 15-minute time frame filled with "togetherness." Good Luck and let me hear how things turn out.

Questions are answered by two people, a gay male and a lesbian, in an attempt to get the best and most fair answers possible. Each person has a master's degree in the counseling field. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the magazine. For serious problems, seek professional help. Send questions to Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948, or e-mail them to FamilyMag@aol.com.

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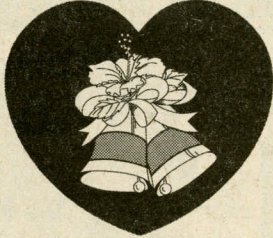
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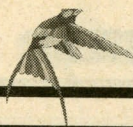
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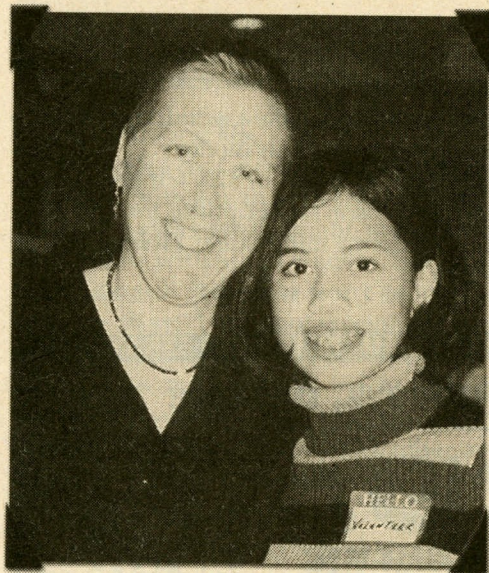
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Family Album ... Loving Arms Auction



Chris and Leslie



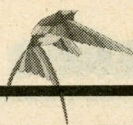
Enjoying the auction are, from left, Michael Donohoe, Alice Donohoe and *The Commercial Appeal's* Michael Donahue.



Global Warning provided the entertainment.



Kathie and Carrie



Family Album ... Loving Arms Auction



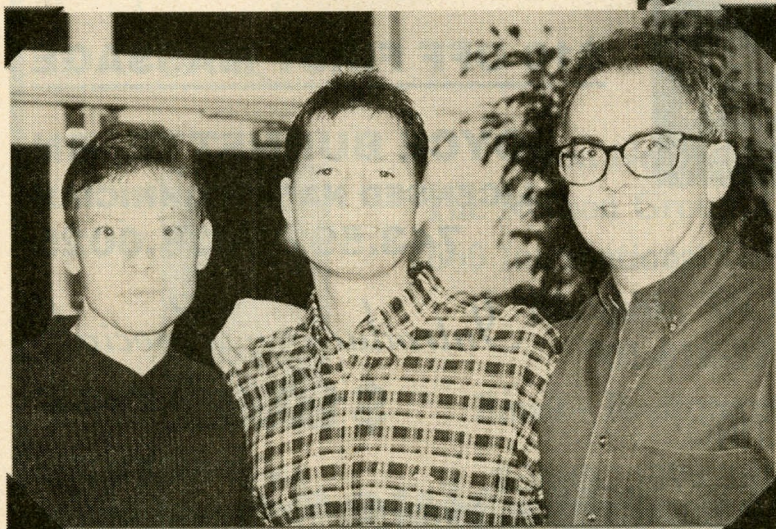
Always ready to pose for the camera are Bryan, left, and Jim.



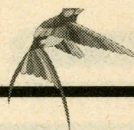
Loving Arms' auctions are always a festive occasion. Pictured here are, from left, Brian, Dora, Billy and Angela.



Angela and Barbara



Just hanging out were, from left, John, Mike and Bill.



Lilly's receives Employer of Year award

Lilly's dimsum thensome, located at 903 South Cooper, is the proud recipients of yet another award. In November, the Mid-South chapter of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) named this community restaurant Employer of the Year. Lilly's was recognized for providing jobs and access to opportunities for persons with disabilities and for setting an example for other employers.

Lilly's owners, Nancy Tesmer and Kathy Webb, have

provided jobs to persons with disabilities throughout their restaurant careers. Tesmer and Webb contacted Mid-South ARC soon after opening Lilly's and arranged to hire Courtney Taylor as a kitchen assistant.

After completing the training program, Taylor began working at Lilly's with a job coach. Since October, Taylor has performed his duties independently. Tesmer and Webb consider Taylor to be an integral part of the Lilly's Team. His performance, work ethic, attendance record and positive attitude earned him the Employee of the Year award from Mid-South ARC.

Mid-South ARC, affiliated with the National Association for Retarded Citizens, has been serving the Memphis area for 50 years. Mid-South ARC serves families in this area by offering employment and occupational skills training, advocacy services, home training, disability awareness programs and other services.

Presently, Lilly's employs three workers from the Mid-South ARC program. For more information on the program, contact Tesmer or Webb at (901) 276-9300, or Mid-South ARC at (901) 327-2473.

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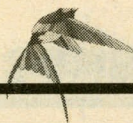
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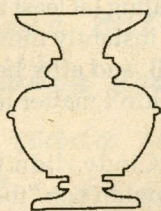
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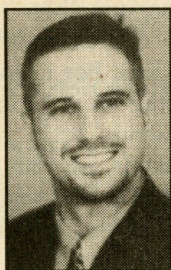
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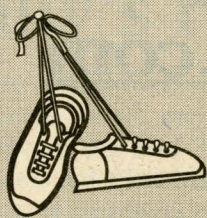


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TAKE A WALK

WITH STEVEN BRADFORD

A First-Hand Look at the Trans Community

He said he just couldn't go there. It was the third episode on "Ally McBeal." Mark was in love with her but just couldn't get past the fact that the woman he was in love with had a penis. After three episodes with Cindy, a male-to-female transsexual, I witnessed a most humanistic approach to transsexuals and their realities in the dating world.

I'm a loyal "Ally McBeal" fan and watch every episode waiting for the next inappropriate joke to break me into laughter. The show is a lot of things. It's funny, heart-breaking, thought-provoking and sometimes homophobic. And now, possibly transphobic. But even so, the relationship portrayed between Mark and Cindy was what I would consider true insight into what it is like to be trans and seeking normal relationships.

For those of you who have never seen the show, it takes place in a law firm. The characters are all close friends and some of them have some rivalries with each other. There is one character in particular, Richard Fish, who is the single most inappropriate person on the planet. He says things no one would every say in good conscious. He's often rude, criticizing and blurts out whatever thought comes to mind followed by the word "Fishism" and all is excused. You expect it from this character and overlook it. It's usually funny in some way but must be taken lightly to find the humor in it. I tend not to take many things on the show seriously. I like it for the entertainment value.

Cindy came into the law firm looking for an attorney to represent her case. Richard and Ling talked to her.

She was suing for the right to waive her insurance and to not be forced to take the mandatory physical that the company required. When she divulged to the attorneys that she was transsexual, they both, having just taken a drink of water, jointly spewed water on her in shock of the news. They had no idea she was a transsexual. They took her case and won. But they also had to keep the client/attorney privilege ensuring their new-found information was kept to themselves.

While at the law office, Mark and Cindy noticed each other in passing. Their eyes met and instantly they were attracted to each other. Cindy didn't want to get involved because she didn't want to tell Mark her secret. Mark pursued her anyway. As their relationship began to develop, she made small attempts to tell him and with Richard and Ling urging her to, the pressure was on. Cindy made an effort to tell Mark while dancing in his arms. He asked her to leave the skeletons in the closet until they had gotten to know each other better. Then he kissed her. Richard almost fell out in the floor.

Cindy finally confides in Mark and he is in a state of shock. He turns and walks out of the bar without saying a word. She is crushed. Later Mark receives his colleague's opinions of his relationship with Cindy. Some are understanding and encourage him to go with his heart. Others scream and ask him if he's crazy but then later recant their feelings and explain to him that he needs to do what is best for him. Mark visits Cindy at her house and professes, "I cannot see you, I cannot see you anything other than a woman." That's what he said; I just

about fell out. Then I rejoiced at the positive approach that this show had just portrayed. I think that everyone who saw the show had to see the beautiful woman standing there on his or her screen.

I had no idea ultimately which way the show would go with the story, but I was very happy that she was treated with respect. Now, I'm not saying that there weren't plenty of penis jokes and other silly innuendos but they were all par for the course of the show. They would do that no matter what the subject matter was. It's part of the show and if I didn't like it or couldn't handle it, I simply wouldn't watch it.

The relationship between the two of them was great. I think it portrayed exactly what it's like when you tell someone a secret of that magnitude that you are dating (at least those who don't want to instantly murder you). He took it well, and after he got over the shock, it didn't matter to him. He still loved her.

Mark and Cindy didn't stay together. Mark couldn't go "there" sexually with Cindy. I can understand that, too. If I were in his shoes, neither would I. That just doesn't do it for me either. He was honest about it and respectful. It hurt her to hear that, but that's just the way things are. They parted as friends.

Transsexuals are fast becoming a hot topic. We aren't in the closet anymore and will become just as visual as any other alternative lifestyle. If you caught these episodes with Cindy, keep watching. I suspect we'll be seeing her again. If "Ally McBeal" offends you, simply turn off the television and Take a Walk.

Theatre Memphis to stage *A Christmas Carol*

Theatre Memphis is bringing back Charles Jones' original script adaptation of Dickens's heart-warming favorite *A Christmas Carol* to its stage at 630 Perkins Extended now through Dec. 23.

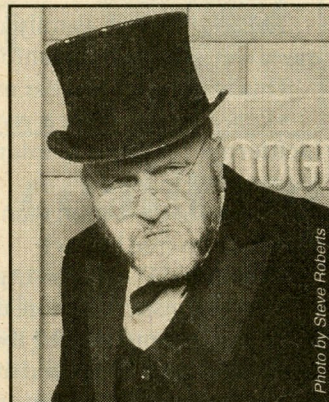
Back this year is veteran Memphis actor Jim Ostrander reprising his original role of Ghost of Christmas Present, which he performed in TM's very first production of the Dickens classic holiday tale in 1978 and continued to perform for the next 15 years.

Well-known Memphis actor Marler Stone, who has appeared on stages all over the city, makes his first appearance ever as Ebenezer Scrooge, while behind-the-scenes performer John Scott returns for his 11th appearance as "The Bed." Scott manually rotates The Bed while on hands and knees as Scrooge journeys on his visits with the ghosts.

Bill Andrews of Memphis Scenic makes his TM debut as Jacob Marley in this year's production and Ashley Wieronski, who is just off the national tour of *Annie*, makes her TM debut as Belinda Cratchit. Also making their TM debuts are Allen Busby as Bob Cratchit and Matthew Kenwright as Tiny Tim. Familiar TM faces include

Samantha Butler as Belle Fezziwig (*A View From the Bridge*), and twin brothers Kelly Green and Shaun Green (*The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*), who will alternate in the roles of Jake the Soup Man, Dick Wilkins, Topper and The Poulterer.

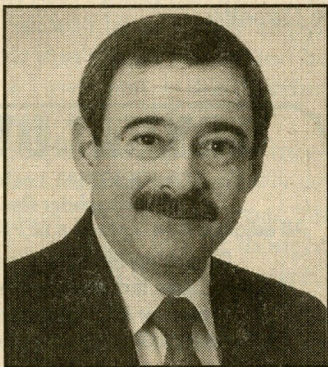
Directing this year's production is Michael Duggan who was most recently seen on TM's main stage as Melvin P. Thorpe in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. While a youth, Duggan caught the acting bug at TM and literally moved from backstage to front-and-center with *A Christmas Carol*. His involvement with this show



Marler Stone as Dickens's Ebenezer Scrooge

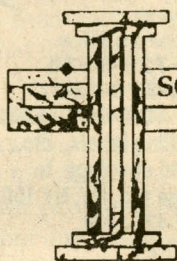
See Scrooge, page 39

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- Discounts on classes and merchandise in the museum stores

- Members-only events and parties.

The Pink Palace Family of Museums offers three types of memberships:

- Individual (\$45): For one adult and one guest. You receive one IMAX pass and two Sharpe Planetarium passes.

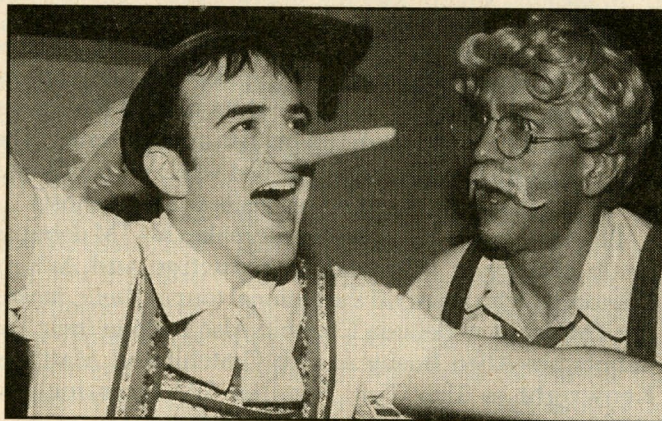
- Family (\$65): For two adults and 10 (grand)children under 21. You receive two IMAX passes and four Sharpe Planetarium passes.

- IMAX Club (\$100): For two adults and 10

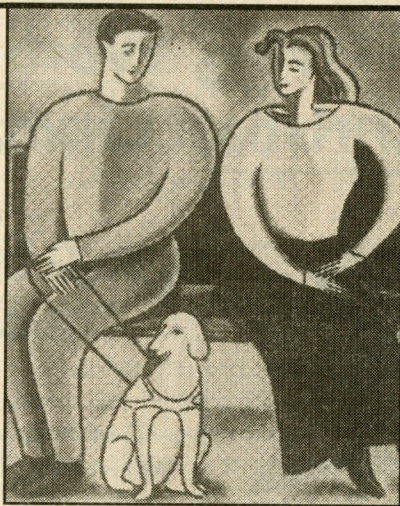
(grand)children under 21. You receive six IMAX passes, invitations to IMAX previews, unlimited planetarium admissions and four guest passes.

And for the holiday season, The Pink Palace Family of Museums will wrap a gift membership in a star-shaped box and add a Pink Palace star paperweight to the package.

For more information, call (901) 320-6406.



Circuit Playhouse is staging *Pinocchio* now through Dec. 23. Pictured are Guy Olivieri as Pinocchio and Dave Landis as Gepetto.



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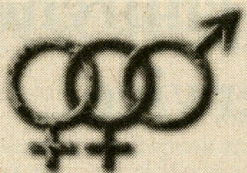
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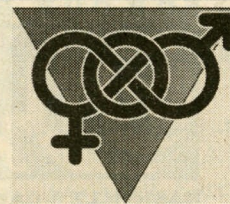
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SPEAKING 'Bi' MIND



Bi-visibility, politics, union & coalition

BY CHERYL TROOSKIN
GUEST WRITER

Okay, I've lumped together a lot of issues in this section, which are particularly hot in my neck of the bi community (there's another hot issue right there – spending lots of time on the global internet adds to the ways in which we can delineate a community) and, from what I've seen, in the queer community in general. I don't claim to have any answers; just some questions and my thoughts on them.

Where is the line between the personal and the political? Why have different spaces for different groups of people? When is it okay to have women-only space, separatist-only space, pervert-only space, bi-only space? (Has anybody really tried to make bi-only space? Have they succeeded?) Why do I feel like I should be as visible as possible? Sometimes, some people don't want me around because I love women or because I love men. Is this discrimination, or the creation of safe space?

For anybody who asks these questions, I'd recommend *The Second Coming*, edited by Pat Califia and Robin Sweeney – particularly the essays by Carol Queen and Lamar Van Dyke. For me, the book is just the right mix of thought-provoking essays, poetry, hot fiction and sexy photographs.

Is there any point in bisexuals getting involved in coalition-building with queers of other flavors? Politically, I feel that there is a better chance of getting what "we" want if "we" stick together. While every minority group, be it sexual or otherwise, has its own set of issues, those of us who are members of the collective group of sexual minorities have a lot to gain by banding together to fight homophobia and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. I'm not expecting anybody to help me fight battles that don't affect them (although, I'm delighted if you do!), but I do feel that the group of people I consider the "queer community" do have a lot of strength to put towards getting the mainstream world to accept our choices. More visible queers of any orientation or gender make the world a safer place for all of us. That said, I think it's perfectly reasonable for people to be willing to march in a political rally together and still not want those same people at their safe, non-political gatherings.

I hear someone screaming after that last paragraph. "Wait

a minute, what about the discrimination that the bi community experiences at the hands of gays and lesbians?" If you're one of the people who posts about this on (the website) every three months (it happens like clockwork; I'm beginning to think it's the same person over and over again) then my only answer for you is: stop complaining and start setting a better example. Can't we see what we're doing? Maybe it'll be more clear if I use a different quotation, one that's a little more extreme. It's not just (our website) – I can count at least three places on the net alone, just off the top of my head, where I've seen somebody ask, "Why do gays/lesbians hate bisexuals?" Don't try to tell me that that's different than asking what to do about the discrimination that bisexuals apparently get from the queer community. It's just one step further down that road that starts with somebody drawing a line between "us" and "them" when it's inappropriate.

I'll repeat myself because I think this is important. **Stop your complaining and start setting a better example.** This works on all kinds of people of all sexual orientations, and is something I think we need to do in addition to the political movements we've already started. It's time we get some of our efforts at unity into our personal lives. Stop generalizing about people based on the gender(s) of their lovers, and maybe they'll stop generalizing about you based on yours.

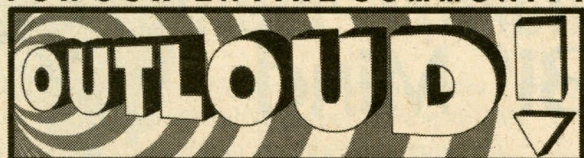
Stop feeling like you have to be invited to every single event, and maybe people will feel more comfortable inviting you to some of them. It's okay to create "safe space." If somebody won't let you into their safe space, create your own. It's okay to not want to have sex with somebody or have coffee with somebody – but tell them the truth about why, and don't blame it on their gender or their orientation.

Author Armistead Maupin said to Sydney, Australia's, *Capital Q*, "I think there's far too much community-think still in gay politics. People who haven't the courage to fight the heterosexual majority bicker amongst themselves and point the finger at each other. It's tiresome and counterproductive. We want the message to reach the world at large, because we want to stop (dealing) with the issue of sexuality."

I think he's got a point. Small communities can be a nice social space, but they suck in politics.

See Bi-Mind, page 36

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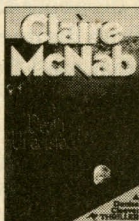
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Reconciling churches hold joint service

BY ANITA MOYT
MANAGING EDITOR

The Reconciling Churches of Memphis convened at Holy Trinity Community Church in November in a joint service of worship and celebration. Individuals representing First Congregational Church, Friends Meeting House, Holy Trinity Community Church, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church and Safe Harbor Metropolitan Community Church were in attendance. As a member of The Reconciling Churches of Memphis, these various congregations are open and affirming, inviting and welcoming all GLBT individuals into the full life and leadership of their church/community.

Both leadership and members of these churches contributed to the evening's program.

As the 40 or so people gathered to the sound of drums, it was apparent that drumming as a method of worship was new to some of those attending. The program used a Native American emphasis, including the use of the Native American hymn "Many and Great, O God."

But the service did not use this theme exclusively. Betsy Depenau, pianist, and Rita White, flutist, provided nothing less than a beautiful accompaniment as the congregation joined in singing "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness." Bill Burtch, singing Susan Ashton's "All Kinds of People" made apparent his splendid vocal talents.

Rev. Timothy Meadows, pastor of Holy Trinity Community Church, was the speaker for the evening. Meadows focused on the "fire" that these churches and individuals have been a part of and are still a part of.

"We are witnessing the new work of the Holy Spirit ... we are in the fire ... we are pioneers being used by the Holy Spirit to do something new," exhorted Meadows, explaining how many in the GLBT community are finding a place to worship where their love for God/Higher Power does not conflict with the love they have for someone of the same sex. "We are light. We are fire. We are a witness to something new and larger and God has called us to that. We are called to do this work here (in Memphis)," Meadows concluded.

The Reconciling Churches of Memphis holds a joint service quarterly; all are invited to attend.



Kwanzaa founder to speak in Memphis

Noted speaker Dr. Maulana Karenga, founder of Kwanzaa, will speak at the Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 and 3 p.m.

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African holiday practiced by millions of people of African descent all over the world. This seven-day festival – which commences the day after Christmas and culminates on New Year's Day – celebrates African-American heritage, pride, community, family and culture. The creation of this secular holiday was inspired by the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and is based on ancient African celebrations.

The museum is proud to host a special program about Kwanzaa featuring a lecture by Dr. Karenga. Dr. Karenga is

widely known as the creator of Kwanzaa, and author of the definitive book on the subject: *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*. Dr. Karenga is professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach. He lectures regularly and extensively on the vision and values of Kwanzaa in various national and international venues.

Dr. Karenga also will be available to sign copies of his book, *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*, between the 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. lectures. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Seating is limited for Dr. Karenga's lecture. Admission to the lecture is \$10 per person; advance reservations are recommended by calling (901) 320-6362.



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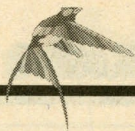
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Cafe Society continues brunch tradition

Cafe Society owners Chef Michel Leny and Bill Tomlinson again opened the restaurant doors and their hearts as they hosted "Brunch with Friends" in November, raising almost \$8,500 for Friends For Life: Aloysius Home and AIDS Resource Center.

According to Butch Valentine, director of fundraising for this organization which provides resources and services to persons living with HIV/AIDS, about 230 individuals attended this annual event, always both a pleasant and delicious time.

Cafe Society, located at 212 North Evergreen and normally closed on Sundays, has hosted this event for the past three years. The staff volunteers their time and their tips and this fine dining establishment donates the food.

Corbin Myles, a classical guitarist, contributed his time and talent to entertain the dining guests this year. Ed Hammett, for the fifth year in a row, created and donated the table arrangements.

The menu consisted of poached shrimp on a bed of mixed greens, served with a warm Caribbean vinaigrette; roasted boneless quail topped with molasses and orange demi-glace served with Yukon potatoes mashed with sauteed apples and mixed with braised red cabbage, and, for

dessert, double chocolate cake served atop a bed of cinnamon anglaise and raspberry puree sauce.

"You know, this was called the 'Day After Brunch' and was tied in to High Hats," Valentine explained. "Since there wasn't a 'High Hats High Heels' this year, I wanted to see if this could be a stand alone event. I moved the date into November and changed the name to 'Brunch with Friends.' It was very successful. Though this is our smallest function, it is my favorite. The community needs to be aware that the owners and staff at Cafe Society have a big heart for PWAs (persons with AIDS)."

So, make a note in your 2001 calendar: "Brunch with Friends" in November.

Bookmark It!

VISIT FAMILY & FRIENDS' WEBSITE AT

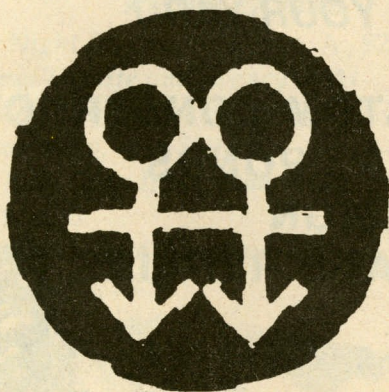
<http://members.aol.com/familymag/homepage.html>

OR E-MAIL US AT

FamilyFriendsMphs@aol.com

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VOICE MAIL: (901) 678-5719



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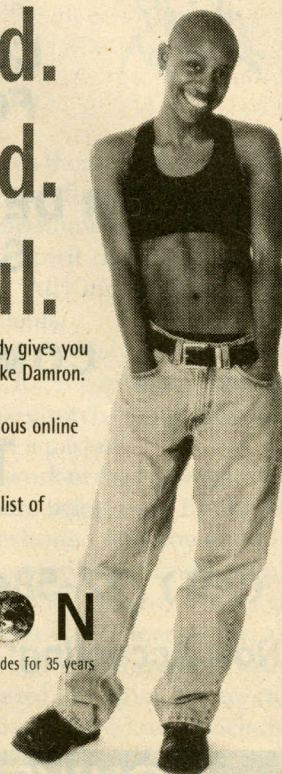


PHOTO © 1999 VINCE GABRIELLY WWW.RAVENTALLERY.COM

Quote

Unquote

"There was a lot of fear about me being on the cover of *the Advocate*. Fear that it would brand me right away as a gay author, meaning that I could not write about anything other than what it means to be gay. The gay life, the gay experience. And at its most worst, gay ghettos and like ... sexual escapades of men in Chelsea. If I read one more of those, I will kill myself."

– **Writer Christopher Rice, Anne Rice's son, to the *Texas Triangle*, Oct. 6.**

"While I'm not gay, I was beat up and called 'fag' from a very early age. I was doing musical theater in the fourth grade ... I've always been the gay man in a straight man's body."

– **Eric McCormack ("Will & Grace's" Will) to *Out* magazine, November issue.**

"The prejudice against gays and lesbians today is meaner, nastier—a vindictiveness that's rooted in hatred, not ignorance."

– **Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, to the *New York Post*, Oct. 24.**

"My problem is that I am a gay man who dislikes gay men. I love men and having sex, but all the men I've met in eight years of being out have fallen into two types. One is the guy who has to shop in designer shops, walk a certain way, act as camp and outrageous as possible and have big attitude. The other is into leather, denim, whips and chains. I don't fancy either of these. I just want a normal guy."

– **Letter to the advice column in London's *Gay Times*, November issue.**

"The taboo for straight actors playing gay is gone ... My mother was squirming a bit in the theater because she comes from a different generation."

– **Actor Dean Cain, one of the stars of the new film *The Broken Hearts Club*, to Boston's *Bay Windows*, Oct. 12. Cain played Superman for four years on TV.**

"What is that about? People of color? Black, brown, Jamaican, Native American, Latino, whatever you are, no no no no, you're people of color. It belittles it, it makes it so small, I think it's racist to take everyone who's not white and lump them together."

– **Lesbian comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer in an October interview with this columnist.**

"I want to have fun but do it in a respectful way. I didn't see any need to swish around. I know a lot of gay people

who aren't the textbook definition of gay. Are we breaking new ground? I don't think so. Will I kiss another guy? I guess I'd have to be up for it. I've left everything up to the producers."

– **Actor John Goodman on playing the gay lead in the new TV series "Normal, Ohio," to the *New York Daily News*, Oct. 29.**

"I don't know where she is at all. She has taken herself totally out of our lives."

– **Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, on Anne Heche, Ellen's ex-lover, to *USA Today*, Nov. 3.**

"I remember when I was a young girl, my friends were afraid to say it (that they were gay), not just because they didn't want to come out of the closet but because they didn't want to go to jail. I remember being at a party when I was a young girl that got raided because it was a gay party."

– **Cher to *Advocate.com*, Nov. 5.**

"There are going to be ramifications for me and my family because I'm sure there will be people who think that I'm gay. And that's fine."

– **Actress Laura Innes of TV's "ER" on character Dr. Kerry Weaver's lesbian relationship this season, to *Out* magazine, December issue.**

"I got to the end of the day sometimes, and thought, 'Okay, I'm pregnant. I'm fat. I can't exercise. I can't wear cool clothes. I don't feel like dancing. And there's nothing remotely cool or cutting edge about me right now. I've become a domesticated cow.'"

– **Madonna as quoted on *entertainment.com*, Nov. 14.**

"A new sitcom about a gay man who seems better adjusted than many of the heterosexuals who dominate the world around him. A step forward? A step backward? A step ... sideways? Fox's 'Normal, Ohio' doesn't seem to be a step at all. Nothing so aggressive as a step. It just sits there, fat and happy like its hero, painfully pointless at its core."

– **From a *Washington Post* review of the new gay TV show "Normal, Ohio," Nov. 1.**

Quotes compiled by Rex Wockner, who has reported news for the gay press since 1985. His work has appeared in more than 200 gay publications. He has a B.A. in journalism from Drake University, started his career as a radio reporter, and has written extensively for the mainstream media as well.

Ask LAM



by Lam Medallion

I just adore Christmas time, don't you? In fact, I think it's the most wonderful time of the year. There is nothing so inspiring as waking up on Christmas morning, the windows kissed by the fresh, icy lips of Jack Frost; the earth tucked into sleep with a downy comforter of snow; just a slip of smoke being exhaled from the chimney; the sweet scent of simmering apples and cinnamon; the subtle beating hearts of my three children pitter-pattering down the stairs to see if Santa had eaten the peanut butter chocolate kiss cookies we had baked the evening before; listening for the sounds of sizzling bacon and frying eggs; getting dressed in our best Sunday best; reflecting upon the past year, the goals that were accomplished and the lessons learned; feeling the warm love of friends, and the inner, soulful peace of being surrounded by family.

But wait! I offer this to think about before the holidays arrive. Why must we put this awful pressure upon ourselves to make our lives a still-life from Norman Rockwell for an entire season? Norman Rockwell has done a terrible disservice to Americans for generations. He has lied to us. These blatant taradiddles are noth-

ing more than figments of his very twisted imagination. So, please, do not try to recreate these scenes of perfection in your homes for the holidays. It is an utter impossibility.

I will give you some insight into how to deal with the holidays, but let me first offer you some sound advice for finding the joy of Norman's fabricated Christmas throughout the year. I think I have learned this from Jane Austen. She says, and I am paraphrasing, the only true happiness is to love and be loved. I discovered the bona fide, blown-in-the-bottle sensation of absolute love when I adopted a poor, defeated, malnourished, rootless, slack-spined, namby-pamby, panty-waisted, forlorn pitbull from a shelter in New York City.

One spring, I was bored with things, and my personal trainer, Susan, a marvelous, energetic girl with dark, curly hair and bright, clear blue eyes and the tendency to be a big bosso, implored me to start walking as part of my exercise regime; taking a brisk walk each and every day would surely help my declining heart and becoming a dog owner would insure that these walks would occur.

After a year of resisting and further deterioration of my already limp ticker, I agreed to find a dog. My original intention was to find a sweet little dog with luxurious, silken hair; the kind I had when I was just a girl in pigtails. Susan indicated that to receive full cardio-something-or-other benefits, I should find a dog that needed to be walked purposefully and zealously, and brought me to the Center for Animal Care and Control to find a dog. And I found Sheila, a pitbull. And Susan would have no way of knowing how this dog would help my heart. Yes, yes, yes, the strenuous walking has lowered my blood-pressure and strengthened my ticker. But the true miracle of what happened to my heart is much more renowned. I finally learned, after a few marriages and a few children, the real meaning of unconditional love, true happiness and Christmas. Every morning Sheila greets me with an outright, hell-fired explosion of love and affection.

Whenever she hears my key turn-

ing in the lock I can feel her love surging through the door. Now you can imagine how unstrung and distressed this could make me. After all, some of my husbands behaved in this same manner, but after time, their affection waned and I was left alone. Sometimes Sheila cries out with unadulterated joy just by laying her eyes on me. I'm not sure I have ever wailed and moaned with joy. I mean, upon seeing someone walk into the house, that is. I believe it is to this kind of blissfulness that Ms. Austen refers and Mr. Rockwell endeavors to capture in his painting. But I had never actually savored this magnitude of ardor, lyricism and hurrah. Until my beastie.

And in time, after practically overdosing on her passion, I found myself a happier soul. I began reaching out to others. I had been inspired by one of the most ferocious dogs to walk this planet. If we all could be so savage and ravenous in our giving and accepting, we would be in a better world. But, with that said, we are only human and there does remain a "holiday season."

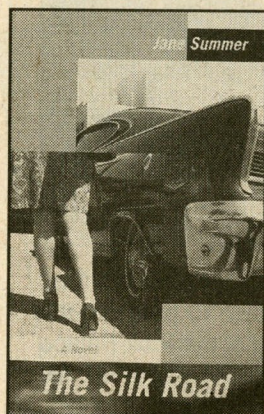
So, to cope with the pressure of that dreaded time period between Thanksgiving and January first, I offer up two very surefire tools. Lots of mistletoe. This little herb gives people the opportunity to demonstrate and receive tokens of love; sometimes, if you are lucky, en le mode de Paris. Plenty of smooching is good for every soul. And two: keep your Frigidaire stocked with vats and vats of Christmas cheer and offer it to all who enter your home. This helps open those closed hearts. It promotes the flow of love.

When you can learn to love and accept love, you will have discovered the magic of Christmas and take it with you all year long. I have. Thanks to Sheila. So, go out there, find all the mistletoe you can (if you can't find mistletoe I suggest basil, parsley, rosemary, thyme or catnip), start creating a new recipe for Christmas cheer (mine has the merest hint of bourbon) and most importantly, you must begin to

See LAM, page 35

G&L book club won't meet until January

Due to the heavy holiday traffic load at Bookstar Midtown, Poplar at Highland, the Gay & Lesbian Interests Reading Discussion Group will not meet in December, which means there's still plenty of time to read November's selection of the month, *The Silk Road* by Jane Summer.



When the family gathers and stress levels increase this holiday season, curl up by the fireplace and escape into the pages of Summer's first novel.

The book revolves around Paige Bergman, a teenager in Hell, N.Y., who is wandering the sometimes hazy path towards adulthood. Along the way, she meets Mrs. Gallagher. "What happens after the two meet is as strange, disfiguring and emancipating as the sudden flowering of a one true love."

The gay and lesbian book discussion group, facilitated by Shannon Yarborough, assistant store manager, and Christiana Bendall, community relations manager for the store, will meet next on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. at Bookstar Midtown. The group is sponsored by Alyson Publications.

For more information, call Bookstar Midtown at (901) 323-9332 or email Yarborough at TruCap24@aol.com or email the store at bookstarmemphis@aol.com.

Answers to crossword puzzle on page 62

1	A	I	D	S		3	F	4	L	5	A	M	6	E
P		7	E	N	8	A	B	L	E				R	
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T	21	M		22	P	23	E	E	L			O		
E	U		24	T	R	A	N	S				Y		

LAM

from page 34

open your hearts to send and receive more love than AOL sends junk e-mails. If you have difficulty doing this on your own, run, don't walk, to the closest animal shelter, pet shop, dog run or veterinary office and find yourself a Sheila. This will surely help you to have a piece of Christmas all year long. It will make you feel as if you belong in a Rockwell painting. Do you understand what I am telling you, darling?

P.S. I like to keep the mistletoe up all year long.

Got a question for Lam? Write to Lam Medallion c/o Family & Friends, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948. Lam's column is meant for entertainment purposes only.

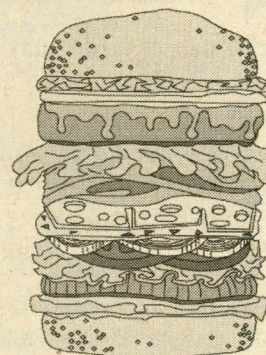
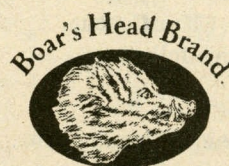
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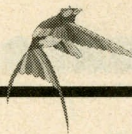
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Bi-Mind

from page 29

I'm not interested in having you at my party if all you do is whine about how mean one particular subgroup of humanity is – does that mean that I'm discriminating?

Reprinted with permission. For more of Trookskin's writing, visit the website, <http://www.byz.org/~sev/sexuality/bi/coalition.html>.

Need someone to talk to?

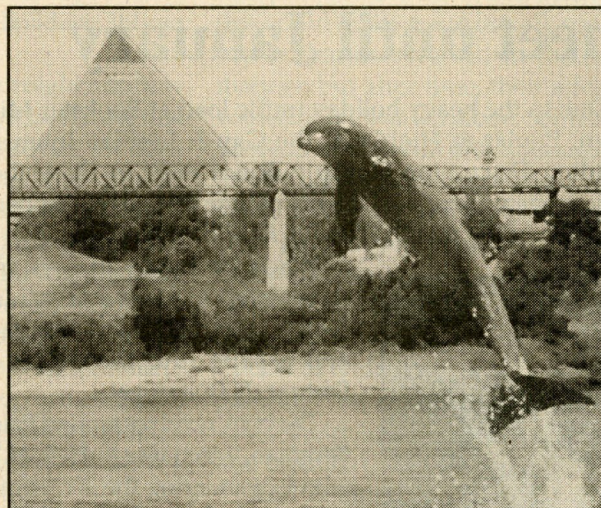
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Dolphins at IMAX



JoJo the dolphin swam laps around Memphis's Mud Island last month. JoJo was in town to promote the IMAX film, *Dolphins*, now showing at the Pink Palace Museum through Feb. 23. Call (901) 320-6362 for more information.

CHRISTMAS AT HOLY TRINITY

Nov. 29, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Preparing for Advent—Making Ornaments.

Dec. 1, Friday: 7:00 p.m. World AIDS Day, Community Service at Mt. Olive CME on Linden in Midtown.

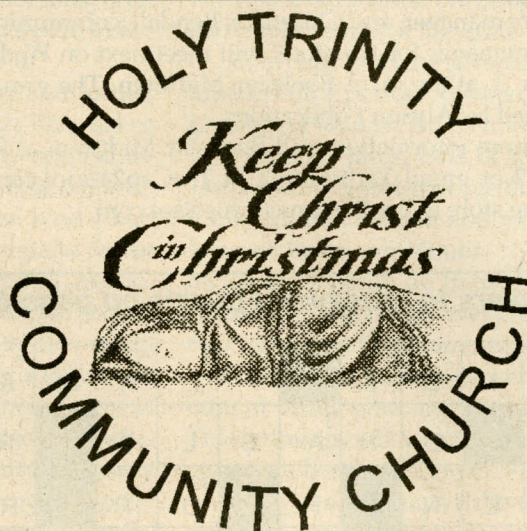
Dec. 6, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

Dec. 10, Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Choir Cantata, *Best Gift Of All*

Dec. 17, Sunday: 7:00 p.m. Choir Cantata, *Best Gift Of All*; Reception follows

Dec. 24, Sunday:
11:00 a.m. Children's Church Presentation
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Jan. 7, Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting



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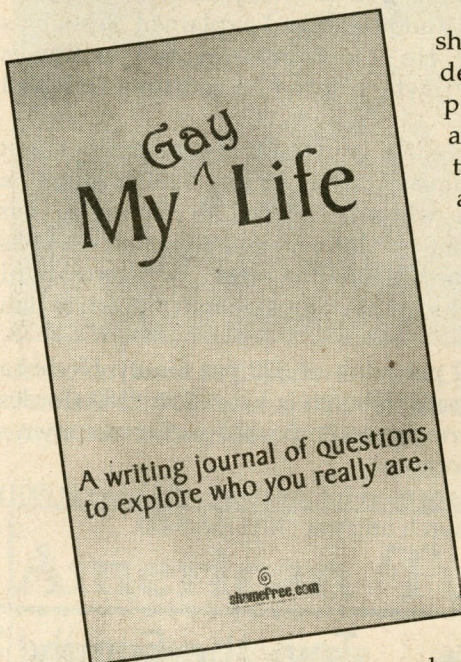
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Shamefree.com publishes *My Gay Life*

Someone had to do it and they have. Shamefree.com has produced *My Gay Life*, "a writing journal of questions to explore who you really are." This 200-page, spiral-bound book consists of each two pages devoted to providing space for the reader to answer one simple question relative to being homosexual.



The questions are short and sweet, yet deep and thought provoking. Some are directly related to being gay, such as, "Why do you think society places so much emphasis on gay peoples' sex lives?" and "Reflect on an experience in which someone's opinion of you drastically changed once he or

she found out you were gay." And other questions are more general and are about you as an individual. Samples of these are, "What are some of the important lessons you have learned in life?" and "What is the most tragic event that has occurred in your life and how has that event affected your outlook?"

According to their website (shamefree.com), *My Gay Life*, is "a writing journal for our community to explore and record our feelings about coming out, prejudice, acceptance and our life experiences as only we could describe ... (the journal is) perfect for those going through the coming out process, those wanting to reminisce about their life, or those wanting to give a completed copy to someone having a difficult time understanding them."

Many have already completed the journal and found it had a positive influence on their life.

"As an older gay man, I found this journal triggered thoughts and feelings I haven't experienced in many years. I also found the journal helped me see clearly, how my life has been shaped to make me the person I am today. Thanks for the memories." Signed, "Jay"

"Growing up and living as an adult in a small rural town, I have lived a very closeted life. When I found the

Shamefree.com website, I really began to think about my future. I have filled out the journal and have decided to share it with the important people in my life. No matter what happens I have decided to be honest with myself and live my life accordingly." Signed, "JT"

"Even though I filled out the journal I still can't bring myself to come out of the closet. I liked *My Gay Life* because about half of the questions are for every human being and the other half are specific for lesbians and gay men. That is what life is like for me. It's like I am a regular person with normal experiences and feelings and oh, by the way I am also a lesbian so I have unique experiences, too. Like I said, I still don't feel comfortable coming out but it was great having a guided journal so I could express myself. Maybe someday I'll show it to my family. Signed, "Name Withheld"

My Gay Life can be ordered online at <http://www.Shamefree.com>, or by writing to Shamefree.com, P.O. Box 044560, Racine, WI 53404. It can also be purchased by phone from OutLoud! at (615) 340-0034.



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Concert planned at Neshoba Unitarian

Nashville-based duo Ya'll is scheduled to debut their loony, backwoods cabaret act on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 8 p.m. at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church

in Germantown.

James Dean Jay Byrd and Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer found each other in the middle of a storm, developed a romance and a musical act. The musical act, Ya'll, has received critical acclaim for their "old-time country music for the 21st century."

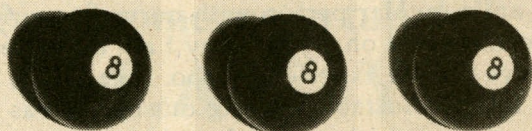
"Their touching songs and very funny stories celebrate their family and heritage," explained Neshoba's Anthony Culver. He said engrossing storytelling is part of Ya'll's act, which leans on old-time folk and country music.

The stories include a grandmother who crochets hot pants, a nun who plays the organ in a Baptist church, a superstitious uncle who skipped his 13th year (he's a year older than everyone else his age) and a woman who has named her kids Garth, Reba and Dwight. By the way, Byrd always wears his lucky green dress, handed down to him from his uncle.

Tickets are \$10 per adult or \$20 per family. Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 8580 Cordes Circle just off Farmington Boulevard in Germantown's Brookside office complex.

For reservations or more information, call Culver at (901) 755-1053 or the church office at (901) 756-5433.

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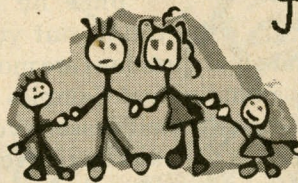


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Jonathon Lamer as Captain Hook and Courtney Ell as Peter Pan face-off in Playhouse on the Square's *Peter Pan*, on stage now through Jan. 7, 2001.

Scrooge

from page 27

began in 1984, as backstage crew. Next, he was promoted to "The Bed" and by 1987, he had made the chorus. Soon he had a speaking role as Nephew Fred. This is Duggan's first effort directing a TM main stage production, however, his previous direction of *Ruthless* (1996) in TM's Little Theatre won numerous Memphis Theater Awards.

Tickets for adults are \$19 on weekdays and \$22 on weekends. Youth, 18 and under, and students with valid college ID are \$10 anytime. Pay-What-You-Can Night is set for Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Theatre Memphis also offers "Scrooge Paks" for *A Christmas Carol*, offering 4 tickets for \$60, which are valid Dec. 1 through Dec. 10.

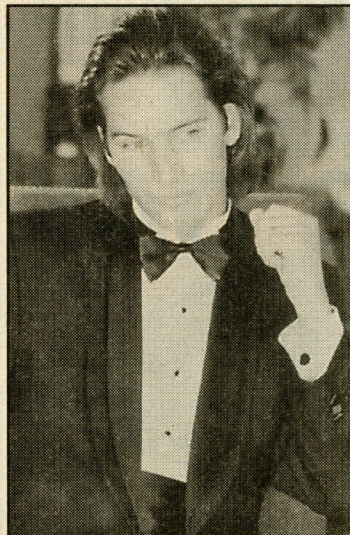
Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday.

For more information or reservations, call the Theatre Memphis Box Office at (901) 682-8323.

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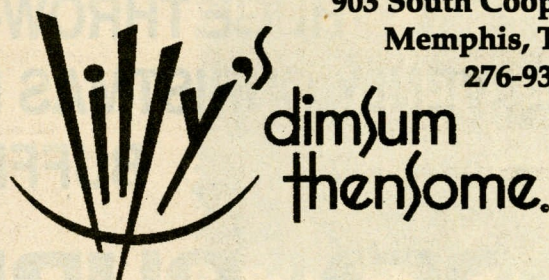
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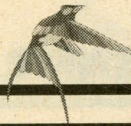
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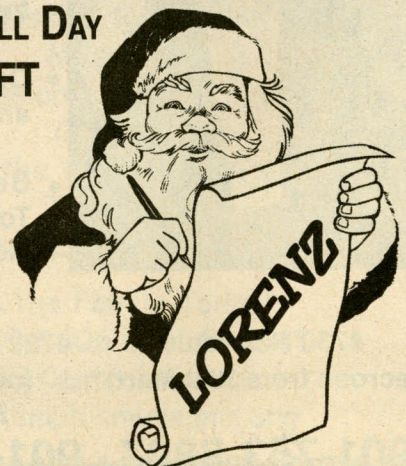
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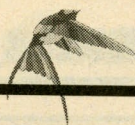
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Family Album ... Brothers United



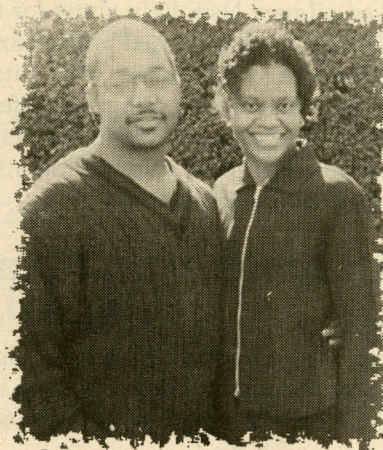
The Brothers strike a pose during The University of Memphis' Writers Conference.



Tony, Sanford, Rose and Tony attend the AIDS Walk in Carbondale, Ill.



Author Thomas Glave, Tony, Tony and Mike



Malcolm and Teneka



Tony and Sanford:
Brotherhood at its best!



The group poses at the AIDS Walk in Carbondale, Ill.



ABOUT TOWN



MSO to present holiday show

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will present "Home for the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2:30 p.m. Both concerts will be held at Eudora Auditorium, located at 4684 Poplar at Perkins. The program will include overtures, such as Brahms/Leinsdorf's "Chorale Prelude - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," as well as traditional holiday favorites including Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" and John Rutter's "Joy to the World." Tickets, priced from \$21 to \$32, are available by calling the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's Box Office at (901) 324-3627 or TicketMaster at (901) 525-1515.

Laser holiday show is planned

To put you in the festive spirit, the Sharpe Planetarium, 3050 Central Avenue in the Pink Palace Museum, invites you to an all-new laser light show for the holidays, now through Dec. 31. This annual production features holiday music favorites synchronized with fanciful holiday laser patterns and images, special lighting effects, holiday scenes and more. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children. For more information and showtimes, call (901) 320-6362 or (901) 320-6330.

Enjoy lunch, wreaths at MBG

Bring your lunch to the Memphis Botanic Gardens in Audubon Park and munch while you learn about holiday wreaths on Wednesday, Dec. 13, noon to 1 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person. For more information, call (901) 685-1566, ext. 110.

Phantom tickets now on sale

The Phantom of the Opera is set to return to The Orpheum Theatre March 28 through April 21. Tickets are on sale now at The Orpheum Theatre Box Office, Davis-Kidd Booksellers in the Laurelwood Collection, at all TicketMaster locations, and by calling (901) 743-ARTS or (901) 525-3000.

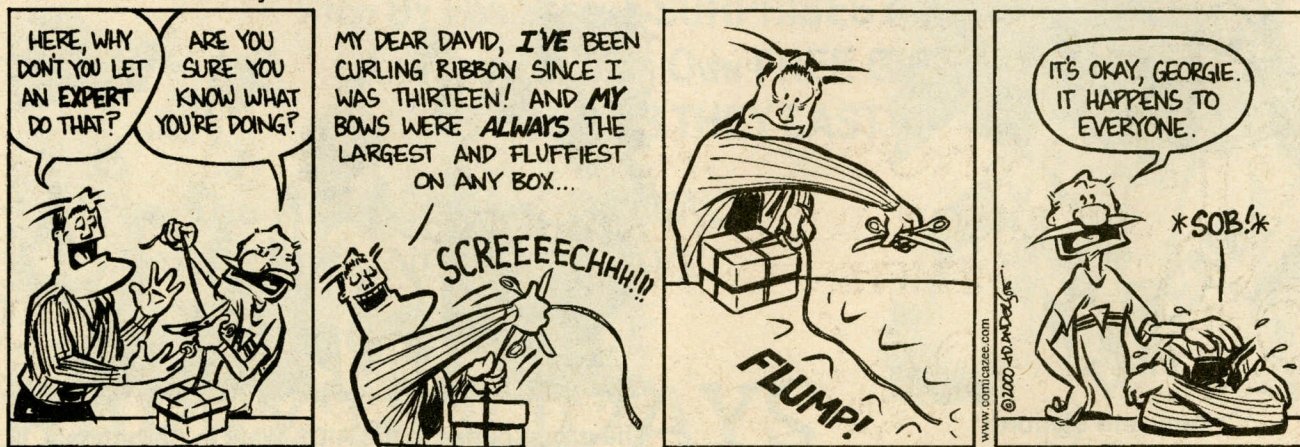
Dixon, WKNO to visualize Blues

"Visualizing the Blues: Images of the American South 1862-1999" is presently on display at The Dixon Gallery and Gardens, 4339 Park Avenue, through Dec. 31. This photographic exhibit chronicles the visual history of the Mississippi Delta and its connection to the development of blues music. For more information, call (901) 761-5250. Additionally, in conjunction with this exhibit, WKNO/Channel 10 will air a 30-minute documentary on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 9 p.m.

Get 'Plunked' in December

Carol Plunk will perform at Mt. Olive CME Church for the World AIDS Day Service on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 2, she will be at Borders from 8 to 10 p.m. She will perform at One More, 2117 Peabody, on Sundays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. You can catch her at the Flying Saucer Draught Emporium, 130 Peabody Place, on Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information on Plunk and her schedule, visit her website at www.carolplunk.com or call (901) 427-6207.

HONESTLY ETHEL by John D. Anderson





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* COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT

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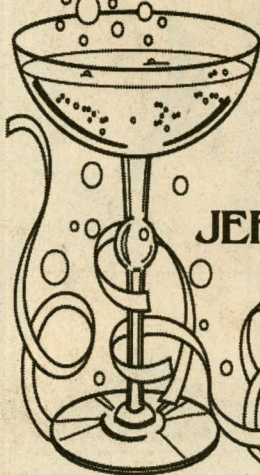
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Memphis recognized? First Congo

from page 19

Family & Friends was recently voted Third Best Publication in Tennessee by voters at GayTN.com. We do appreciate the votes and support of our many readers. We also want to thank those who went to the GayTN.com website to participate in the survey, but told us that they had reason to believe that their votes were deleted.

Best Publication went to *Xenogeny* out of Nashville, and Second Best Publication place went to Knoxville's *OutSource 2000*.

The survey was conducted by JBeau Media, which holds the copyright to both GayTN.com and *Xenogeny*.

Also, congratulations go to Backstreet Memphis for being voted Best Gay Bar Overall in Tennessee and Third Best Dance Club. Byron Brewer was awarded Third Best Bartender in the state and DJ Marky Mark was awarded Best GLBT DJ. The Mid-South PrideFest 2000, held at Backstreet Memphis on July 15, received the Best Gay Pride celebration award.

Strangely, Equality Tennessee took second place as Most-Recognized Non-Profit Organization in spite the fact that it was not chartered until August 2000, and is still in the formulation stages.

outreach to the GLBT community. Presently the church provides meeting space for the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center; offers a monthly fellowship group, Lambda Circle; is active in AIDS ministries, and is active in the Reconciling Churches of Memphis.

As far as future outreach to the community, Rev. Cornish said, "(We are) open to a lot of new possibilities. We have the ability to host groups for their meetings ... a real gift to offer the community ... (not to mention) a larger facility to offer to groups."

And First Congregational reaches out to more than just the GLBT community around them, something that set well with the Cooper Young Association.

"One reason Cooper Young was attracted to us was because we are such a welcoming community ... that was important for us to be active in," Rev. Cornish explained.

"We are thrilled about this. It's been two years since we have been looking at building or relocating. 2001 will be a year of transition. I want people to understand we are not moving (out of the Midtown area)," Rev. Cornish summed up.

*You are invited to come
celebrate Christmas with
"family" who love you,
understand you, respect you,
accept you.*

*This presentation is by and
for the Memphis Community*

BEST
GIFT
OF
ALL

Holy Trinity Community Church
3430 Summer Ave.

Sunday, December 10, 11:00 a.m.
and

Sunday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Reception follows
by *Martha's Mission*

The Holy Trinity Community Choir
Directed by Bill Burtch
Soloists: Jonathan Christian, Rita White



Maynard

from page 17

munity link for GLBT and similar community organizations.

- Work to improve the image of the GLBT community.
- Work within the straight community to build alliances and allies.
- Facilitate political training for Tennessee's GLBT persons and straight alliances.
- Monitor hate crimes and facilitate a process for managing these incidents throughout Tennessee.

"I would like for those of us in Memphis who are concerned about GLBT issues to work with people across the state and groups, like LGCJ, across the state, rather than be isolated," Maynard explained. "(Equality Tennessee's) first focus is on hate crimes and setting up a hate crimes registry to document such cases. My vision at the state level is to work on some legal protection ... a state-wide nondiscrimination act which includes sexual orientation to cover employment and housing. The main thing is to get people involved across the state and get local chapters going."

The 30 Equality Tennessee board members will meet in Knoxville for a board meeting in December. The following

board meeting is tentatively set for March in Memphis.

"We don't have a lot of representation from Memphis and west Tennessee," Maynard said. "Memphis needs to catch up with the rest of the state."

All are invited to join Equality Tennessee. To do so, send your name, address and e-mail address to Equality Tennessee, P.O. Box 330965, Nashville, TN 37203. A \$20 suggested donation is requested. Those with email addresses will be contacted regularly about the organization and issues needing attention at the state level. A quarterly newsletter also is planned.

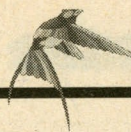
For more information, call Maynard at (901) 327-2677 or email him at jmaynar2@midssouth.rr.com.

CORRECTION

The byline on the story, "Consortium shepherds AIDS funding, agencies" on page 15 of the November 2000 issue of *Family & Friends* was incorrectly attributed to Rex Wockner. Anita Moyt, managing editor was responsible for writing the story.

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Your Point Is

from page 4

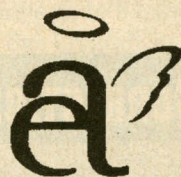
deal with placing an obituary in *The CA*, what this usually means is the newspaper refused to run the listing for free for one reason or another. A couple of examples: a cause of death given to *The CA* differed from that on the medical examiner's report, and in another instance, the cause of death was suicide and the family didn't want it mentioned. Each time, the newspaper, under its policy, said it had to

list the cause of death according to the medical examiner's report. Not wanting that to happen, each family was told in order to have the obituaries run, they could pay for them, which would give the families the right to include or withhold any information they saw fit.

So what does that have to do with our community member? We can only guess the family wanted her "companion" listed in the obituary just that way, as her companion. The newspaper probably said they couldn't (or wouldn't) do it, but offered the family the option of paying for a listing (we won't get into the idea that this "policy" generates revenue for the publication). Money was apparently exchanged and her partner received the recognition she deserved as her "companion."

And our point is ... don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today. If you're in a long-term, committed relationship, one that does not provide you with the rights provided to legally-married husbands and wives, see an attorney and get those power of attorney documents signed and filed. Get those wills drawn up and filed. It could be the most important thing the two of you ever do as a couple, trust us!

As far as members of the GLBT community receiving the rights of our married heterosexual counterparts, get involved now and do your part to persuade state and federal legislators to pass laws regarding same-sex unions and domestic partnerships. If you need direction in this respect, contact the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition For Justice, someone there will be happy to help you get involved.



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Community mourns loss of Misha Medlin

Services were held Nov. 27, 2000, for Michelle "Misha" Medlin, 33. She died at home of cancer Nov. 24, 2000.

Medlin was an inside sales representative at Mills Wilson George.

Survivors include her companion, Becca Dickerson; her mother, Betty Medlin Turnbow, and step-father, Wilson Turnbow, both of Barton, Miss.; her sister, Ramona Castle of Lexington, Tenn.; three brothers, Phillip Medlin, James Medlin and Johnny Medlin, all of Barton, Miss.; her aunt, Mable Gant, and cousins, Doug Gant and Neil Gant, both of Barton, Miss.; her extended family, Terry Taylor, Michelle Cook, Marie Horton, Melissa Freeman, Allison Shaw, Cindy Slough, and a countless community of friends.

The family has requested, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Memphis Funeral Home.



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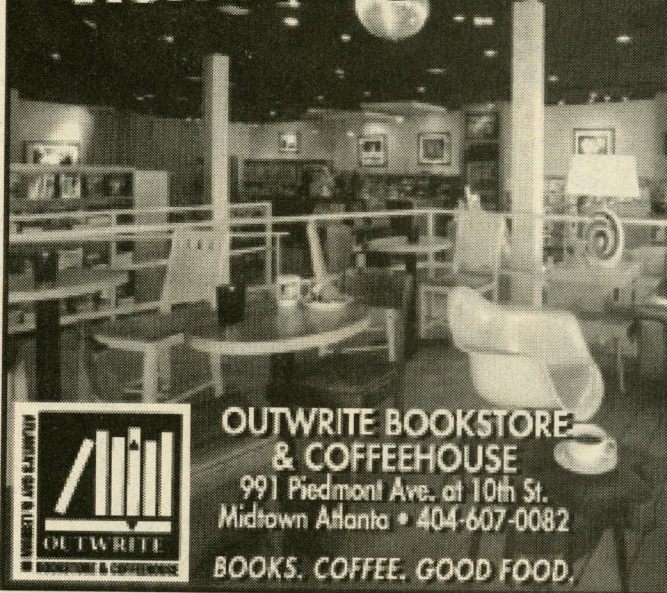
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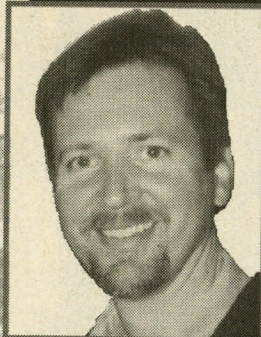
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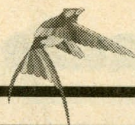
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glenn@glennmoore.com

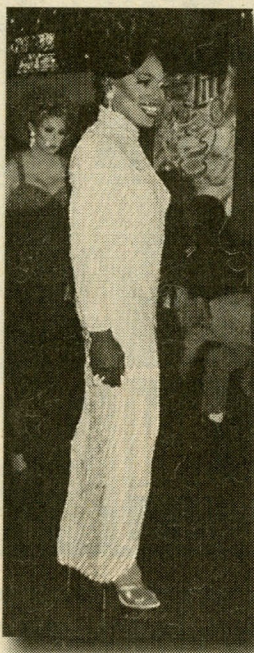


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Family Album ... Miss Memphis

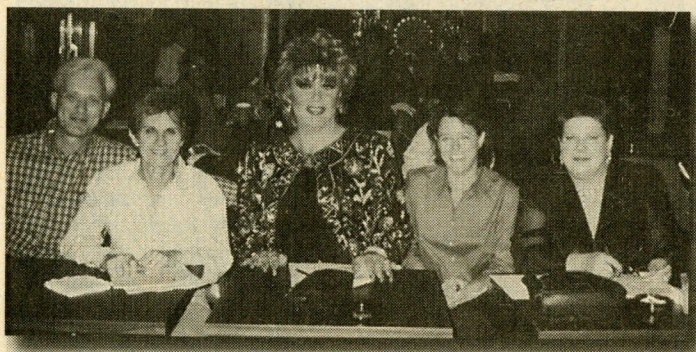
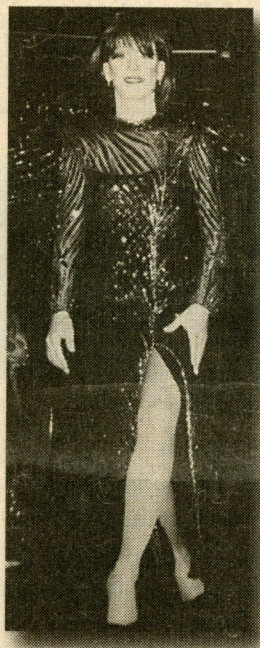


The Winners



**The Emcee
Alotta Miles**

**Photos by
Linda Jones**



The Judges



DECEMBER 2000

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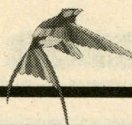
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Parents-R-US



If Santa brings a scooter, kids need to learn safety

If you're able to get a kick scooter – the latest craze and an item sure to be on almost every Christmas wish list this year – under your feet, then safety should be a priority.

Industry officials expect to sell two to five million new scooters this year, with profits in excess of \$200 million. With virtually zero sales last year, it's no wonder the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports emergency room-treated injuries related to the popular lightweight scooters increased dramatically this year. Nearly 90 percent of injuries are to children less than 15 years old.

While most of the injuries involve cuts and scrapes, nearly one-third resulted in broken bones. Using proper safety gear and riding techniques, and avoiding streets and traffic, are the most effective ways to prevent injury, said a University of Mississippi (UM) police officer.

The best safety measure for riders and others is to use common sense, said University Police Captain Linda Christian.

"The riders have to take some degree of responsibility," Christian said. "You have to balance the fun with safe-riding techniques."

Riders of the scooters, especially children, should always wear proper safety gear, including a helmet, knee and elbow pads and gloves, to help prevent injuries. Riders also should consider the following tips for proper riding:

- The side-walk surfer: Toes facing the side of the deck is great for skateboarding or surfing, but not for riding

a scooter. Scooters have handlebars and twisting your body is not a good technique.

- The T-Hugger: It's extremely dangerous to ride with your feet and body hugging the T-handle bars. It distributes your weight poorly, and one bump can send you flying.

- Straight stance: Standing up straight with your foot pointed forward and in the center of the deck helps to maintain stability and steering control.

- Ability to stop: Keep your hand or foot on the brake when sailing around a curve or down a hill.

Children need to know to watch for both traffic and pedestrians,

Christian said. Parents should talk to their children about the rules of the road. **Riders should:**

- Stay away from busy intersections. Not only could the rider be injured, but other pedestrians also could be harmed.

- Stay on sidewalks. The driver of a vehicle may not have time to react to a scooter zooming onto the roadway.

- Ride only on smooth, flat surfaces. Most scooters are not designed for off-road conditions.

Non-scooter riders also should be aware of the latest scooter craze, Christian said.

"These scooters are going to start popping up all over. Motorists need to be aware that they're in their communities. They need to pay more attention as well, and drive defensively," she said.

Even though safety is the number

one concern, scooter riders also should be mindful of theft. Riders shouldn't leave their expensive scooters unattended, she added.

"Don't leave your scooter leaning against the side of a building and expect it to be there when you come back," the UPD officer said. Most of the lightweight scooters can be folded down and carried to deter theft.

Two easy steps can be taken to help authorities track down a stolen scooter. Serial numbers written down and stored in a safe place and/or an engraved name or other individual marking can aid authorities in returning a stolen scooter.

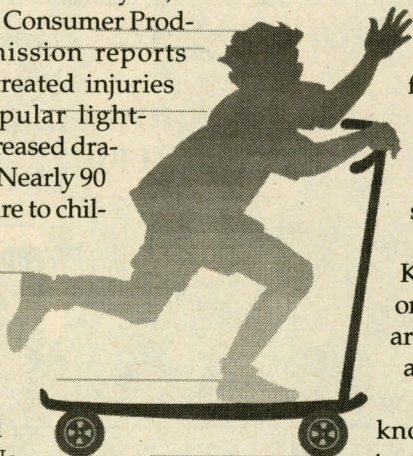
Urban scooter tops Target's Top 10 Toys list this holiday

If you're wondering what to get those little ones this holiday season, fret no more because Target stores recently published a list of the Ten Top Gifts For Kids on its website, target.com.

The list is as follows:

1. Urban Scooter
2. Hot Wheels' "Tornado Twister"
3. Poo-Chi
4. "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire"
5. TYCO's "Remote Control Speed Wrench"
6. Monopoly's "Millennium Edition"
7. Diva Starz (sounds a bit like a drag queen, huh?)
8. Easy-Bake Oven and Snack Center
9. "Leap Frog Leap Into Learning" pad
10. Hello Kitty's portable boom box

And, if you're wanting to avoid the holiday shopping crowds, these and other gifts can be purchased directly from Target's website, target.com.



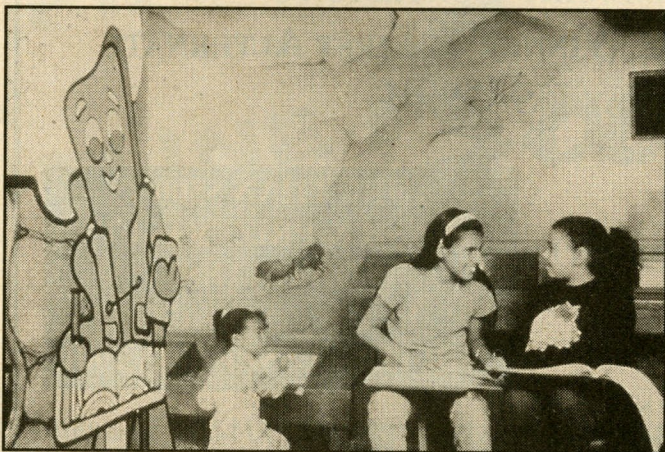
FOR YOUR Kids

Museum to host New Year's Eve party for kids

Children get their own special New Year's celebration at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Avenue, on Saturday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will ring in 2001, by counting down to noon in the Time Square exhibit at which time goodies will be tossed into the crowd.

Kids will prepare for the festivities by making party hats, noisemakers, Chinese New Year scrolls and a special "Year of the Snake" craft. After the countdown, refreshments will be served to the crowd. Other activities include a New Year's trivia contest and face painting. Giant posters will be on hand for children to write down their "Best Memory of 2000" and their "New Year's Resolutions for 2001."

All ages are invited. Admission to the museum is \$4 for children (one-12) and seniors (62+); \$5 for adults, and free for museum members. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (901) 458-2678 or visit its website at www.cmom.com.



Visit the "Adventures Into Books: Gumby's World" exhibit at The Children's Museum of Memphis beginning Saturday, Dec. 9, and continuing through March 4.

Holidays at Brooks isn't just for adults

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is proud to present its second annual Holidays at the Brooks, a celebration of the traditions of the season. Now through Dec. 31, the museum will be transformed into a holiday fairy tale come to life. The galleries will not only be filled with art, but also decorated with trees, wreaths and holiday displays that will represent the magic of the season. This year's Holidays at the Brooks also features a special gingerbread "house" display that will include models of the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, the Pyramid and Beale Street among other things. Holidays at the Brooks also will include a model railroad display.

Along with the elaborate decorations, there are activities planned specifically for children. On Saturday, Dec. 9, the following events are planned:

- 10 a.m. to noon, ornament-making workshop, cost is \$12 per child.
- Noon to 12:30 p.m., holiday storytelling by Bobbie Drobeck, free with museum admission.
- 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Santa Clause is coming to Brooks! Come meet Santa and share gingerbread cookies and a photo. Cost is \$7 per photo.
- 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., holiday card workshop, cost is \$12 per child.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, the following events are planned:

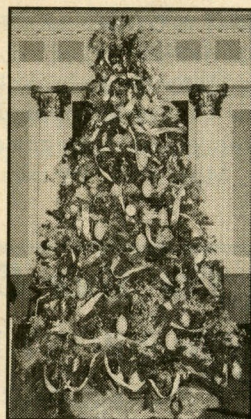
- 10 a.m. to noon, explore holiday crafts from around the world, cost is \$12 per child.
- Noon to 12:30 p.m., holiday storytelling, free with museum admission.
- 1 to 1:30 p.m., hear the story, *Imani's Gift at Swanzaa* and other Kwanzaa stories.
- 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Weave a bright paper mkeka (mat), make a bookmark, and create other unique Zawadi (gifts) at this Kwanzaa workshop.

Children under six years old must be accompanied by an adult.

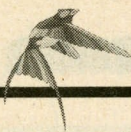
The Brooks Museum, located in Overton Park off Poplar Avenue, is open daily Tuesday through Sunday. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors (65+) and \$2 for students with ID.

For more information, call (901) 544-6200 or visit online at www.brooksmuseum.org.



Holidays at the Brooks



FFL

from page 18

valuable support to FFL ... United Way, City of Memphis Housing and Community Development, HOPWA, Ryan White (Southwest Tennessee HIV/AIDS Care) Consortium and the Assissi Foundation."

Moss noted how other mainstream agencies have now taken on delivering services to the individuals in our community infected with HIV/AIDS. Moss and the board are looking at the services FFL and Aloysius Home delivers to the community and those delivered by other agencies. He said there is now a sense of community and collaboration building among the agencies.

"We want to do what we do well and not try to overlap services provided by someone else," Weibel said. They will look to see the cost-effectiveness of each of their services and build the areas where they see the most efficiency.

"We want to build the prevention program because in the City of Memphis FFL is (perhaps) the only one that reaches out to the gay community," Moss explained.

Moss said, "We are not closing down ... we are here. We

are doing everything we can to be financially sound. If there was ever a time we need people to be there for us, it is now. We will be there for them. We cannot over-extend ourselves. We learn from our mistakes."

Weibel also told *Family & Friends* the board is "going slow on deciding about what to do about a permanent director." But they are accepting resumes for the position. The new director is expected to have a good understanding of financial management; how grants operate and are accounted for; grant-writing; possess the ability to delegate responsibilities; be an articulate spokesperson for AIDS causes and represent FFL to the public.

Moss has submitted his name into the hat as permanent executive director.

"I love FFL and Aloysius Home. The staff is the best (group of) people you would ever want to know ... they are absolutely and totally committed and giving 110 percent to this effort. The board of directors also is a great group and committed (to this effort)," Moss said. "The morale of the staff is increasing ... people see more direction ... more accountability."

"The last couple of meetings (of the board of directors/executive committee) have felt more positive. We are taking very fast and proactive steps," Weibel said.

For Your Enjoyment

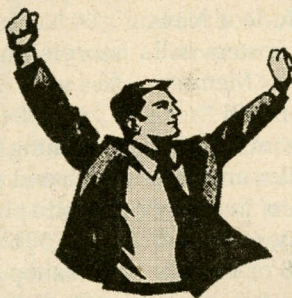
MR. EBONY MEMPHIS USA

Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:30 p.m.

Madison Flame

1588 Madison Ave.

\$6.00 cover



MR. MEMPHIS USA

Thursday, Dec. 14, 10:30 p.m.

Amnesia

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\$6.00 cover

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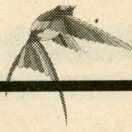
Club Wear (your "club" best; may include leather)

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Applications are available at Madison Flame and at Amnesia; by calling (901) 324-5382, or by email at centerstates@yahoo.com. Entry fee of \$40 payable at registration, which is held at 6 p.m. on the date of each contest at each club.



Discrimination

from page 10

attorney felt there was "no basis to initiate and/or pursue a discrimination claim against Makowsky & Ringel at this time." He further wrote, "You may still have a claim in tort against the actual perpetrators."

What did exist was harassment by unnamed individuals, and these individuals made many derogatory statements to them about their sexual lifestyle. Therein lies the next legal possibility.

With threats of bodily harm, May and Travis were told they could pursue a restraining order against the alleged perpetrators. They also could pursue a civil lawsuit against the individuals involved. Harassment is harassment, and being gay or black or disabled is not part of the issue.

What have May and Travis learned from all this?

"People aren't as tolerable as I thought they were in this new millennium. I thought people were more accepting of alternative lifestyles. It is a shock to me that something like this could happen," Travis said.

"I've learned to keep the faith and be strong ... to believe in God, first. My companion's motivation and telling me

to keep my head up and just go on (helped me). There is just a bunch of ignorant people out there that just don't know how to tolerate homosexuals," May added.

Through this ordeal, which May and Travis experienced, we all can learn a lesson. We, in the GLBT community, must be knowledgeable about what the laws are now as well what laws need to be made in the future. We need to know the differences between discrimination, harassment and hate crimes.

We need to educate ourselves about our legal rights first, and then educate our homophobic friends.

Choices of Life to hold last HIV/AIDS prevention class

Choices of Life Inc. will hold its last HIV/AIDS Prevention Red Cross class this year, Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 5 to 8.

The class will be held at the Red Cross, located at 1400 Central, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The cost to attend is \$95 per person. This training will enable individuals to be HIV/AIDS educators in the community.

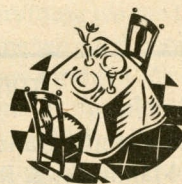
Space is limited; sign up by calling Avalon Nathaniel at (901) 722-9015.

Returning
Soon

WATCH FOR DETAILS



Memphis



Bar & Restaurant Guide

BARS & CLUBS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Amnesia
2866 Poplar Avenue
(901) 454-1366</p> <p>2 Backstreet Memphis
2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522</p> <p>3 Crossroads
1278 Jefferson
(901) 276-8078</p> <p>4 Crossroads 2
111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078</p> <p>5 J-Wags
1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909</p> <p>6 The Jungle
1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313</p> <p>7 Lorenz
1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272</p> | <p>8 Madison Flame
1588 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-9839</p> <p>9 Metro Memphis
1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010</p> <p>10 N-Cognito
338 S. Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599</p> <p>11 One More
2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE</p> <p>12 Pipeline
1268 Poplar Avenue
TEMPORARILY CLOSED</p> |
|---|---|

**For Bar Listings
Outside Memphis
See Page 58**

RESTAURANTS

Billy Bob's Steak House & Saloon
(Inside Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall)
(800) 456-0711
(Reservations suggested)

- 1** **Bogie's Delicatessen**
2098 LaSalle Place (behind Paulette's)
(901) 272-0022

- 2** **Cafe Ole**
2127 Young Avenue
(901) 274-1504

- 3** **Cafe Society**
212 North Evergreen
(901) 722-2177
(Reservations suggested)

Chicago Steakhouse
(Inside Gold Strike Casino Resort)
(662) 357-1225
(Reservations suggested)

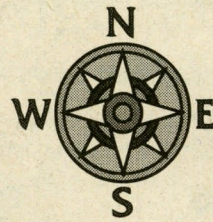
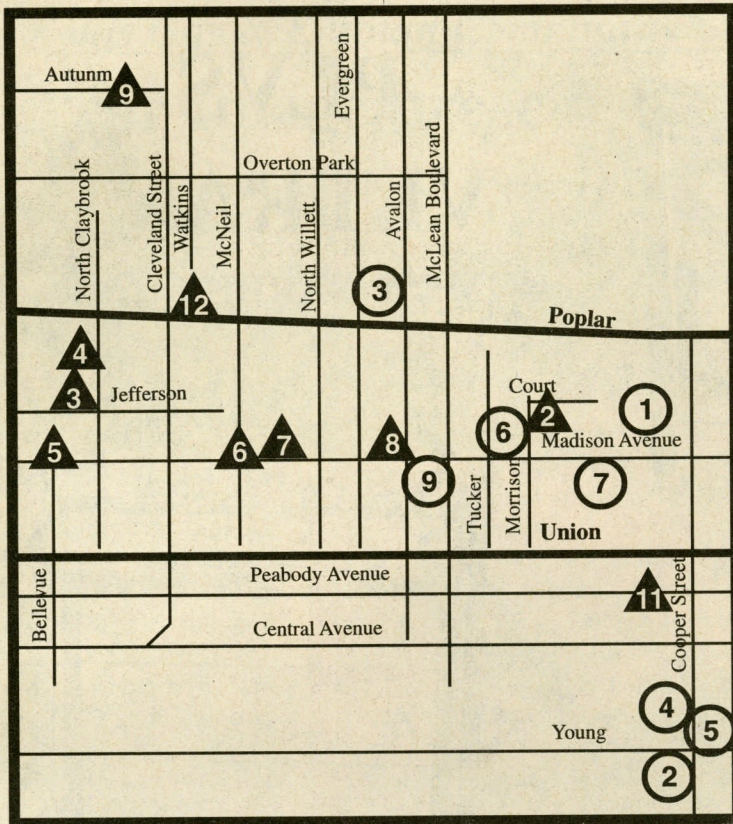
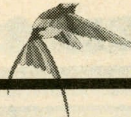
- 4** **lilly's dimsum thensome**
903 South Cooper
(901) 276-9300

- 5** **Melange**
948 South Cooper
(901) 276-0002

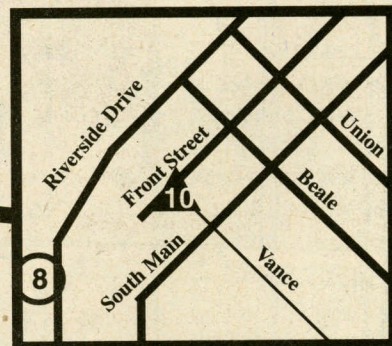
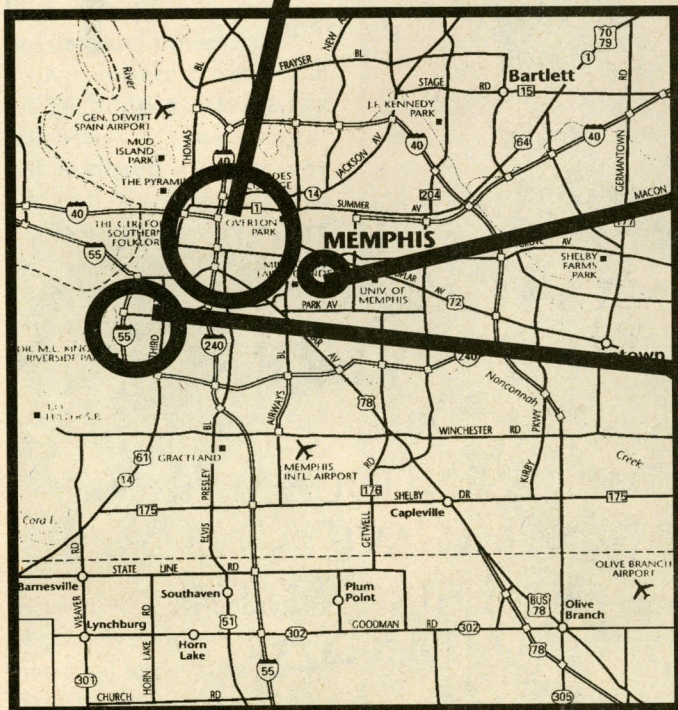
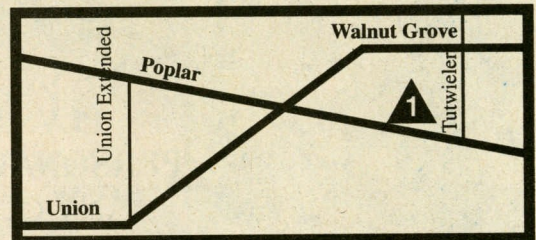
- 6** **Molly's La Casita Mexican Restaurant**
2006 Madison Avenue
(901) 726-1873

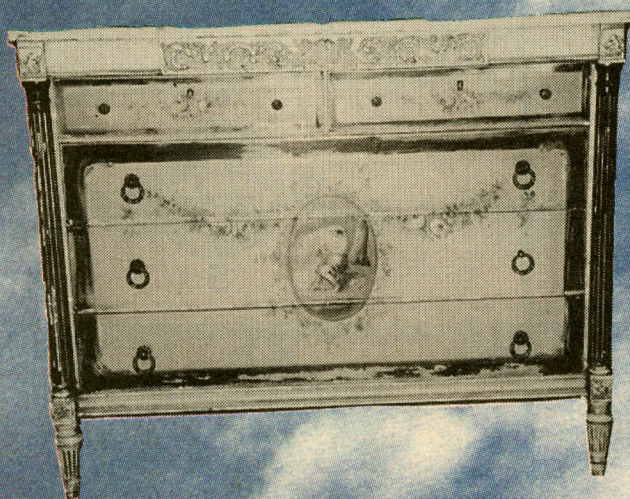
- 7** **Neil's**
1835 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-NEIL

- 8** **Rosita's Deli & More**
(Inside the Rivermark Apartments)
655 Riverside Drive
(901) 543-0627



*Maps are not to scale;
not all streets are shown.*



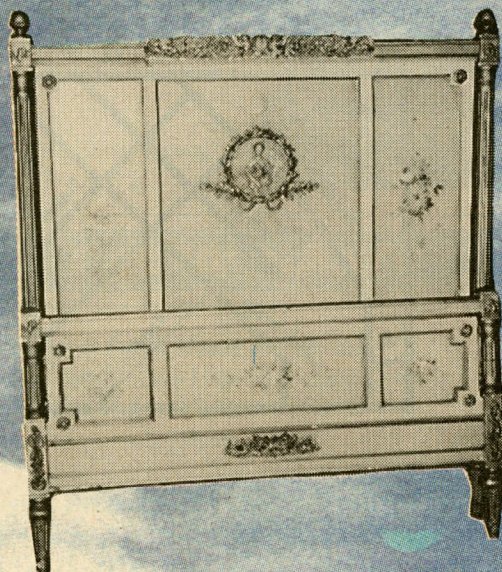
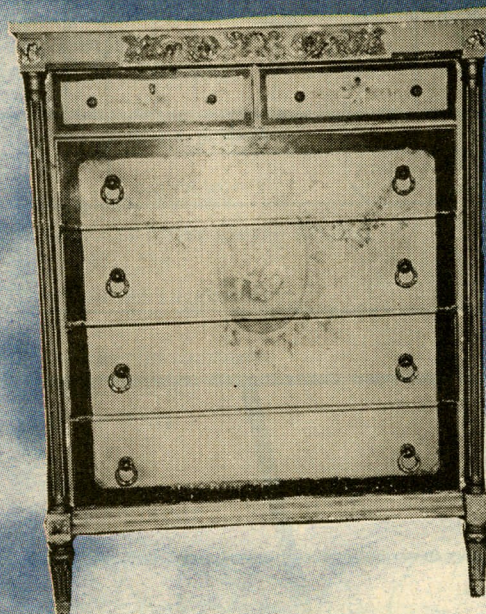


PLVS VLTRA

HOME & GARDEN

ANTIQUE FURNITURE
DECORATIVE ARTS
GLASS
PORCELAIN
POTTERY

ASK ABOUT
PLVS VLTRA
PERSONAL SHOPPER
ANY OCCASION
ANY BUDGET



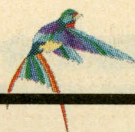
JONATHAN D. INGRAM
MICHAEL SERVANTES JR

PLVS VLTRA

IN

MEMPHIS ANTIQUE MARKET
2265 CENTRAL AVE #69 2ND FLR
MEMPHIS TN 38104

(901) 489-4231



Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center

Mirror Image presents first of program series

About 15 folks attended the MGLCC town-hall meeting on Nov. 6. At that meeting a program of introduction was conducted by Mirror Image (formerly Memphis TransGender Alliance). This is the first in a series of presentations intended to inform the community about the various groups and organizations within our community.

Representing the transgender group were Barbara Jean Jasen, founder and editor of the Mirror Image newsletter; Anya Silver, chairperson emeritus, and Nichole, former president. Mirror Image began in September 1993, and was dormant in 1997 and 1998. The organization was renamed and restarted in 1999.

Mirror Image is an open social and support group for all transgender individuals, including cross-dressers, female-to-male and male-to-female transsexuals and others.

Anywhere from three to 16 people attend the monthly meetings. Jasen noted a few wives attend meetings with their husbands.

Jasen is a widow and has one son. She identifies sexually as bisexual and is very active in the Memphis GLBT community, serving on the Memphis Pride Inc. board and the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center board of directors.

"The group is very important to me. The group is about caring and sharing," Silver, identifying as bisexual and the most androgynous of the three, said. Silver has been mar-

ried and divorced and has no children.

Nichole, presently in a MTF sex-reassignment program and on hormone therapy, has been married and divorced twice and is the parent of two children.

MCLCC board takes trips

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) board members recently traveled to Nashville and Atlanta to meet with the boards and staff of established centers.

On Oct. 28, six board members traveled to Nashville to meet with Joyce Arnold, executive director of the Center for GLBT Life. Jason Crockett (president), Jim Maynard (secretary), Katie Hiestand, Barbara Jean Jasen, Len Piechowski and Herb Zeman (at-large) talked with Arnold about programs, fundraising, grants, switchboard and web services and space utilization.

Crockett and Angela Lamb (treasurer) traveled to Atlanta on Nov. 9, to attend the National Association of LGBT Community Centers Institute, part of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference. The institute provided an opportunity to share ideas and advice, as well as make contacts in community centers regionally and nationally. There also were specific workshops to address board and volunteer development, as well as fundraising.

"There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Advice from those who have already gone through the process of establishing and maintaining a center will be an invaluable asset as we move forward in establishing a physical space for our community," Crockett said.

Crockett also would like to remind us, as the year 2000, comes to a close, MGLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully taxdeductible to the extent provided by law.

"Every donation brings us closer to the goal of a physical space for the community," Crockett concluded.

MGLCC hosts its next town-hall meeting on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., at First Congregational Church, located at Watkins and Eastmoreland.

Also, the MGLCC will hold a potluck dinner on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at First Congregational Church. Bring a dish, a friend and \$3 (all proceeds benefit MGLCC). This month the theme is Hanukkah, so bring a traditional Jewish food. The potlucks are planned to continue each third Thursday of the month.

For more information, contact Crockett at (901) 725-1574.

Although Nichole does seek sex-reassignment surgery, neither Jasen nor Silver desire such. Nichole noted the "diversity within our sisters."

According to Jasen, about 10 percent of the group designated GLBT are transgender and of those, only about 10 percent identify as homosexual.

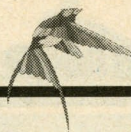
Although many transgender individuals do not consider themselves homosexual nor part of the GLBT community it is in the GLBT community where they find the open arms and acceptance they desire.

Silver, felt being a part of the GLBT community has "empowered me to bring myself out of the closet."

Nichole agreed, "I'm grateful for the gay and lesbian community to help me come out."

It was noted, after sexual reassignment surgery is complete, "sisters blend in and go into the woodwork." And it is into a heterosexual world that they blend seeking total acceptance.

Mirror Image meets the third Saturday of every month at 7 p.m. For more information and locations of meetings, write to P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052, or email the group at memphisgroup@usa.com. The group is open to all, and welcomes new members.



Memphis Pride Inc.

Date of 2001 event set; theme, logo decided

The Memphis Pride Inc. board returned from its early-November retreat with plenty of good news to report at the November MPI open meeting.

First off, the board reported MPI's charter was reinstated on Oct. 27, by the Tennessee Secretary of State's office in Nashville. All forms have been filed and fees paid through the year 2000.

In addition, Tim Johnson, MPI treasurer, reported that another one of the debts MPI incurred as a result of the postponement of the 2000 event, \$166 to Champion Awards for security T-shirts, has been absolved. Johnson also reported \$220 was raised as a result of the MPI membership drive and that MPI's bank balance as of Sept. 30, 2000, was \$1,025.57.

Way ahead of past board's schedules, the present board announced the date, theme and logo for the 2001 Pride event. According to Katie Hiestand, who was officially promoted to the position of chair from the post of co-chair during the retreat, the 2001 MPI Pride event will take place the weekend of June 15 to 17, to continue its effort of commemorating Stonewall.

In addition, the 2001 Pride event theme will be "2001: Our Pride Odyssey," which not only plays upon the book and movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but also recognizes the fact that each and every GLBT person, regardless of the stage in his or her life, is always on a journey toward pride and positive self-esteem about who they are.

The logo this year, which was created by the board collectively, shows the Memphis skyline, including the Pyramid colored as the rainbow flag. In addition, the rainbow colors are displayed above the skyline in the form of fireworks, signifying the GLBT celebration, with the "2001: Our Pride Odyssey" theme running through the fireworks. The word "Memphis" also has been incorporated into the logo, as have the four triangles, which represent the GLBT community.

While no parade route or festival site have been secured at this time, the proposed schedule for the Pride 2001 weekend is as follows:

Friday, June 15

- Parade lineup at 7 p.m. with the parade beginning at 8 p.m. and possibly beginning at or near the RiverMark and proceeding north down Riverside Drive to Tom Lee Park.
- A rally, hosted by the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice, may take place at the conclusion of the parade.
- Following the rally, the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center will host its annual party.

The board also decided that this year MPI members will vote for and determine the 2001 parade grand marshals, as opposed to the board making that decision.

Saturday, June 16

- Although MPI is not sure of the times, the board has a hold on the MidSouth Coliseum as the site of the festival. This will provide ample space for a top-notch festival and entertainment, while also providing shelter from the weather, as well as the heat. No entertainers have officially been secured for the event, however, the MPI board is looking at several national entertainers, as well as many local entertainers.

MPI hopes to coordinate several other organizations' and businesses' events into the 2001 Pride schedule, and would love to have everyone's input and suggestions. Not only can you attend open MPI meetings (the next one is set for Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 3430 Summer Avenue), but you can join MPI and even serve on one of the following committees: Events (chaired by Katie Hiestand), Parade (chaired by Tim Johnson), Advertising/Public Relations/Sponsorship (chaired by Patty Pair), Local Entertainment (chaired by Kay Mills) and Merchandising/Vendors (chaired by Barbara Jean Jasen).

There is much work to be done and the 2001 Pride event belongs to everyone, so please, get involved. Volunteer to help make the 2001 event everything you think it should be.

Mark Your Calendars Now

for

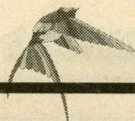
Memphis Pride Inc.'s

2001 PrideFest Celebration



June 15, 16 and 17, 2001

**Now chartered by the State of Tennessee
MPI's next meeting is set for
Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m.
Holy Trinity Community Church**



F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

BARS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

AMNESIA

2866 Poplar Avenue
(901) 454-1366

Main bar, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. Thurs.-Sun. • Jazz bar 7 days a week
www.amnesiausa.com

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS

2018 Court Street
(901) 276-5522

8 p.m. – 3 a.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Sun.
8 p.m. – 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday
www.backstreetmemphis.com

CROSSROADS & CROSSROADS 2

1278 Jefferson & 111 North Claybrook
(901) 276-8078
Noon – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

J-WAG'S

1268 Madison Avenue
(901) 725-1909
Open 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

THE JUNGLE

1474 Madison Avenue
(901) 278-4313
3 p.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

LORENZ

1528 Madison Avenue
(901) 274-8272
11 a.m. – 3 a.m. Monday – Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 3 a.m. Sunday

MADISON FLAME

1588 Madison
(901) 278-9839
7 p.m. – 3 a.m. Wednesday, Friday & Saturday

METRO MEMPHIS

1349 Autumn Street
(901) 274-8010
3 p.m. – 3 a.m. Monday to Friday
11 a.m. – 3 a.m. Saturday & Sunday

N-COGNITO

338 South Front @ Vance
(901) 523-0599
10 p.m. – 3:30 a.m. Thursday & Friday
10 p.m. – 5 a.m. Saturday & 4 p.m. – midnight Sunday

ONE MORE

2117 Peabody
(901) 278-MORE (6673)
7 a.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

PIPELINE

1382 Poplar Avenue
TEMPORARILY CLOSED
2 p.m. – 3 a.m. 7 Days A Week

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

JACK & JILL'S

3911 Northview Drive
(601) 982-JACK (5225)
9 p.m. – ?? Friday & Saturday

JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE

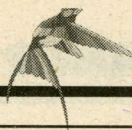
425 North Mart Plaza
(601) 362-3108
5 p.m. – ?? 7 Days A Week

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

THE OTHER SIDE

3883 Highway 45 North
(901) 668-3749
5 p.m. – midnight Sunday – Thursday
5 p.m. – 3 a.m. Friday & 7 p.m. – 3 a.m. Saturday

**IF YOUR ORGANIZATION
ISN'T LISTED HERE,
CALL (901) 682-2669**



F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SOCIAL CLUBS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

TSARUS MEMPHIS

Levi-Leather Club meets the 3rd Saturday
of every month at 10 p.m.
Men Only

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (M.A.G.Y.)

P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124
(901) 335-6249

Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with
gay/lesbian/bisexual and gender issues
www.gaymemphis.com/magy

COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES - MEMPHIS

(901) 272-2116

Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Prescott
Memorial Baptist Church, 499 Patterson
(Near The University of Memphis)
Square dancing social group

MEMPHIS BEARS

P.O. Box 11094 Memphis, TN 38111-1094
(901) 725-9178

Meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at The Jungle,
1474 Madison Ave., - at 10 p.m. • Men Only
www.bigfoot.com/~memphisbears

P.F.L.A.G.

(Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
(901) 761-1444

Support meetings for parents, family & friends
www.starbase21.com/pflagmemphis/
email: amdrake@mem.po.com

B.G.A.L.A.

(The University of Memphis Students for
Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association) (901) 678-5719
BGALA is a social, political and educational
organization open to anyone regardless of race, age,
religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual
orientation or gender identity.
www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER MEMPHIS INC.

P.O. Box 42157 Memphis, TN 38174-2157
(901) 276-0168

A gay multi-cultural, educational, social and political
organization - Memphis chapter

TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE

Men & Women Welcome

Meets 2nd Sunday of every month at 10 p.m. at
The Jungle, 1474 Madison Avenue
<http://users.wspice.com/~tecj/tlt/tlt.html>
email: tecj@wspice.com

SUNSHINE TRAVELERS

(901) 488-4752

Meets every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at The Jungle,
1474 Madison Avenue

MIRROR IMAGE

P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052

Meets the third Saturday of every month at 7 p.m.
For more information and locations of meetings, write
or email at memphisgroup@usa.com

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

This group holds a town hall meeting the first Sunday
of each month at First Congregational Church's Pilgrim
Hall from 6 to 8 p.m., Watkins @ Eastmoreland

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

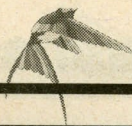
BLUFF CITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 41803, Memphis, TN 38174-1803
(901) 682-9928

Organizes gay sports leagues, including softball
and volleyball

BROTHERS & SISTERS BOWLING LEAGUE

Cordova Bowling Center, 7945 Club Center Cove
(901) 737-7824 OR (901) 465-4371
This co-ed bowling league meets every Sunday at
6 p.m. at the Cordova Bowling Center.



F&F RAINBOW DIRECTORY

SPORTS ORG. CON'D

MIDTOWN BOWLERS

Cherokee Bowling Center, 2930 Lamar, Memphis
(901) 323-3111

This bowling league meets weekly on Friday at 7 p.m.

WHOLENESS SERVICES

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK

880 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN
(901) 545-8265

Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/
rehab services to the HIV-positive.

LAMBDA CENTER OF MEMPHIS

1488 Madison Avenue
(901) 323-8079

Offering 12-step support groups to the
g/l/b/t community.

FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER

(901) 272-0855

Dinner is served the first and third Monday of every
month at St. John's United Methodist Church, Bellevue
at Peabody beginning at 6 p.m.

ORORO-CROSSROADS

(901) 743-2900

Support group for African-American
same-gender-loving men
CRPegues@aol.com

WELLNESS CENTER AT HTCC

3430 Summer Ave., Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 754-9423 OR (901) 320-9376

Offers a Support Program for Gay Parents & a Support
Program for Married Men Dealing with Sexual Identity

YWCA ENCORE

MedPlex, 880 Madison Ave.
(901) 754-4356

Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets
every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

SPIRITUAL

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

INTEGRITY MEMPHIS

102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 525-6602

People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at
Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m.

LAMBDA CIRCLE

(901) 278-6786

Open to all l/g/b/t persons of faith to join in an affirming
time of prayer, Bible study and discussion.
Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to
8:30 p.m. at the Parish House of First Congregational
Church, 246 S. Watkins at Eastmoreland.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

MCC OF THE RAINBOW

5565 Robinson Rd. Extd., Ste. 2, Jackson, MS 38204
(601) 372-6644
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

POLITICAL GROUPS

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

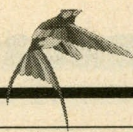
MPHS. LESBIAN & GAY COALITION FOR JUSTICE

P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124

A civil rights group that promotes equality and combats
prejudice among g/l/b/t persons. Meets Oct. 23 and
Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Highland branch library.

email: lgcj@gaymemphis.com

website: www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj



HOROSCOPES

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Those open to change will be the luckiest. Most important in your life at the moment are long-term goals and people in faraway places. Good news could come to you in the near future.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) – The planets give their nod to your social life. Make it a point to go where people gather. Time spent out among friends proves beneficial to your romantic nature. Studying something new could improve your financial status.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) – A matter involving a partnership or relationship may finally come to the surface. If you extend time and effort, dreams could become realities, otherwise, say goodbye to that relationship.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) – Things done at work could be most effective now. A missed opportunity could present itself again. Turn to your friends for support. This is not a time to go it alone.

Aries (March 21-April 20) – The planets are now smiling on social and creative interests. The time is right for a new romantic relationship. You may find a new way to express yourself romantically.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) – Promising endeavors for the month include home-related activities, home maintenance and real estate deals. The time is right for a home-based money-making idea.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) – Dig a little deeper and you just might find that the gold was there all along. The an-

swers to your problems are much closer than you think they are. Keep an open-mind and you could benefit.

Cancer (June 22-July 23) – The only way for your dreams to come true is to place yourself in the right place where business and social matters thrive. Patience brings many rewards. You might even consider a home-based business.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) – Your career sector is the focus now. Professional or business gains may be right around the corner. Believe in yourself and you will go far. But don't forget that romantic interest in your life either.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) – This is a time for reflection and to consider important decisions before jumping to conclusions. Bosses could be impressed by you, which may show up on your paycheck.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) – Put on your party shoes because this is a time for socializing and widening your circle of friends. Doors can be opened by new people you meet. Try new things and wishes may come true.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – The focus for now is on career and financial trends. Soon you could be moving up the ladder of success, while friends offer support. Direct efforts to career, community and civic projects. This could indeed be a time of great things.

Editor's Note: Horoscopes are meant for entertainment purposes only and are for the month of December.

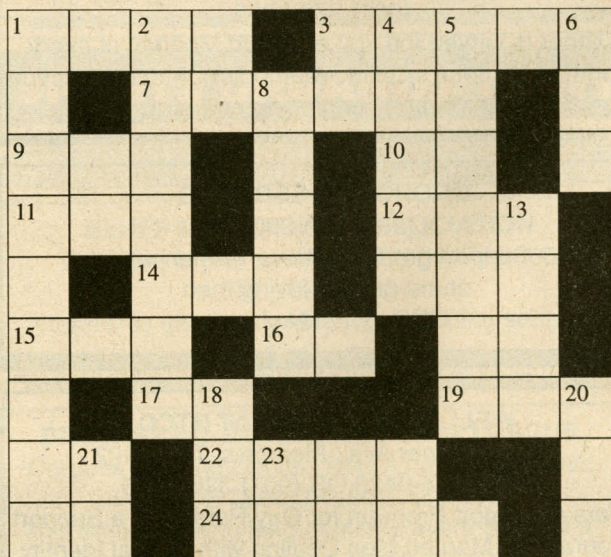
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

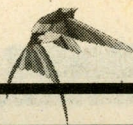
1. World _____ Day
3. a Memphis bar
7. to allow someone
9. female chicken
10. either _____
11. to spoil
12. I love _____
14. sick
15. computer language
16. "Mr. _____"
17. _____ *Sir With Love*
19. a type of bed
22. do to a banana
24. to cross, as in gender

DOWN

1. Santa's helpers
2. fixes teeth
4. a man's name
5. type of exercise
6. to make a mistake
8. keeps the doctor away
13. do, opp.
18. to make a decision
20. child's desire
21. Mystic Krewe of _____
23. popular TV show

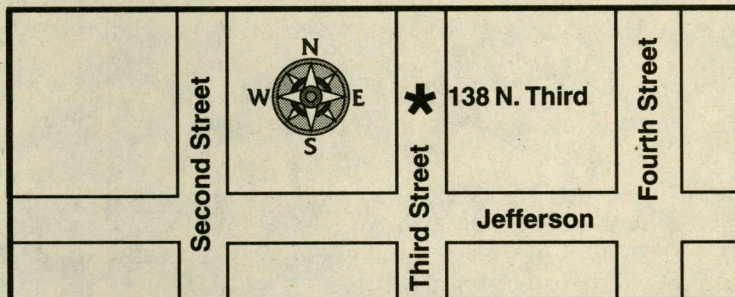
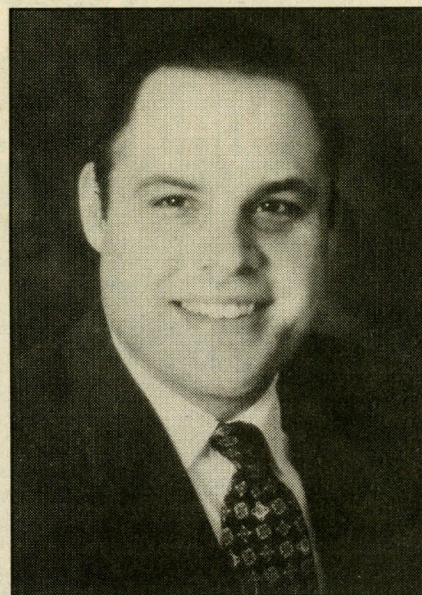


ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



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